

Blair goes down big with Britain's bosses

IT IS a fact of no great consequence, yet indicative of something so remarkable about our present condition that the ordinary journalistic rules of simple sentence, construction fall me, that at 12.20pm on a clear-skied autumn Tuesday, in a year almost within sobbing distance of the end of the 20th century, 500 richly suited men and women, individuals at the very top of their chosen business professions, busy people, people of singular intellect and judgment who between them hold the levers of power across a great swath of British commerce and industry, hastened by aeroplane, taxi, train, Rover, Jaguar, Rolls-Royce and Mercedes-Benz from the four corners of the United Kingdom and

gathered in a darkened hall in a conference centre in Birmingham and sat together waiting in an excited, expectant and expensive hush, for the transmission upon a large rectangular cloth screen of a moving picture of the features of Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, and for the sound of his voice. The performance is now available on tape. How expensive this was to produce we cannot say, but it must have been one of the most costly to watch in the history of broadcasting.

I, too, hastened to the CBI conference, choosing the front row. As a talk from a real headmaster neared its end, excitement mounted at the prospect of a talk from a virtual Prime Minister. The

chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, indicating the screen above his head, warned his audience: "There is a danger that at some point the Prime Minister may appear up there."

He did. "I now have a cue that tells me we have to conclude," Sir Colin blushed — and there Blair was, larger than life, on the wall. The gap between his eyes was nearly two feet across. Tony Blair is moving to us through cyber technology," Sir Colin gasped as, through the ether, an image of Mr

Blair's dreadful tie, orange with black polka dots, was beamed to Birmingham, six feet long. The Head was frowning and nodding. "Education is your unloathed passion," Sir Colin warbled to the Tie, "we await your words with great anticipation." Might he be about to prostrate himself in front of the screen?

Mr Blair said nothing much and said it for about 20 minutes. His eyeballs were the size of tennis balls and kept flicking, so you knew he was reading a script. "Let me set

out the basic principles of a modern economic policy." The eyeballs flicked. Five hundred eager little faces gazed up at the screen as Mr Blair expanded.

"There is a new sense of national purpose," exclaimed the Mouth. "Together, let us get on and do it!" The eyeballs were still. A thousand plump little hands applauded the wall.

"You have kindly agreed to respond to a couple of questions," Sir Colin said to the eyeballs. The huge Head nodded. Odd that, although hanging in the air were a number of doubts on a variety of newsworthy controversies, Sir Colin asked the Tie to lay out fears to rest over trade union legislation and to enlarge a little on "the

challenging global targets that you, Prime Minister, have made a centerpiece of your political agenda." The Mouth knew all about global targets.

"Thank you," Sir Colin breathed, "for such a detailed explanation." The eyeballs blinked. "We hope next year we'll have the privilege of your company in person." A very slight frown flickered between the eyeballs. And that, Sir Colin gushed, "rounds off our conference extremely well and on a very positive note indeed."

The slightest inclination of the Head acknowledged the tribute. Then they turned him off.

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CBI warning, page 28

IN BRIEF

Lords back total ban on handguns

Peers last night backed down from a further confrontation with the Government when they agreed to drop two amendments to legislation which will impose a total ban on handguns.

Weeks after inflicting a double defeat on the Government, the House of Lords threw out the two amendments which would have allowed disabled people to use small calibre weapons and competitive shooters to practise at approved centres. The Bill is now set to receive Royal Assent and become law.

Homes alert

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Conjugal rights

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Inauguration, page 6

Children at risk

A million children in Britain could be losing out on their childhood because they have to look after an alcohol parent. Many are abused physically and sexually, and neglected emotionally, according to reports from the charities Alcohol Concern and ChildLine.

Victim wanted

Rudolf "Rudi" King, 22, shot in his car in Willesden, northwest London, was being sought for the murder of Medha Welsh, 20, outside Trenz nightclub in Hackney, Scotland Yard said. Two men arrested after the shooting have been released on police bail.

Cool Yule tips

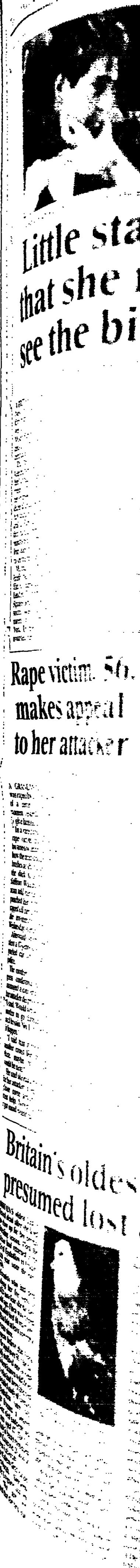
A day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas has been launched by the relationship counselling service Relate. The £25 course on November 29 at Southampton City College will concentrate on teaching families to communicate and not expect too much.

Retiring rhino

A rhinoceros is being retired to Scotland because it is too old to breed. Dick, 28, will join two other elderly rhinos at the Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling. All come from the West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester.

CORRECTION

A caption to an agency photograph yesterday accompanying an article on the Spice Girls wrongly identified the man shown as Simon Fuller; in fact it was Bob Grace, the group's song publisher. We apologise for the error.



Portillo returns to frontline campaign

BY JAMES LANDALE AND NICHOLAS WATT

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday cast himself in the unlikely role of an amateur politician just helping out an old friend at a by-election.

Out campaigning for Gerald Malone, the defeated Tory MP seeking to recapture Winchester, the former Defence Secretary, declared: "I have no political role, I'm just a layman helping out at a by-election."

In his first foray into the political fray since his conference fringe speech calling for a new, caring Tory party, Mr Portillo struck a markedly humble note, insisting it was

too early for him to seek re-election. But despite his declaration after losing his seat in May that he would take a break from politics and "get a life", Mr Portillo yesterday insisted that he had always planned to help the party on the ground.

Mr Portillo lost his Enfield, Southgate seat to Labour at the general election. Yesterday he said: "Coming to by-elections is an important contribution. I hope to be at many other elections to help more Conservatives get elected."

Couldn't he have helped by standing for the other by-election at Beckenham? "I didn't think about it for very long," he said. "It was too early to put myself up for re-election. If you have been defeated and pop up the next day asking to be re-elected, people will say you couldn't abide by the verdict of the election."

Mr Portillo has given Tory Central Office a week of his time to campaign around the country. He hopes to give 30 speeches in 30 constituencies.

So was the tour a pre-emptive leadership campaign ahead of changes to the rules that will give Tory grassroots a greater say? "That did not even occur to me," he said.

First stop was Minstrils



Michael Portillo, right, with Gerry Malone, who is trying to regain his seat in Winchester after losing it by two votes at the general election

Cafe in the heart of Winchester. Mr Malone said the election was too close to call, but predicted a "decisive result" for the Tories on November 20. William Hague's "clarity on EMU" was playing well with the electorate, he added.

Mr Portillo attacked Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat candidate who won the seat in May by two votes, for his "Trappist silence", at Westbury. Mr Oaten, who has apparently spoken only once during his five-month tenure in the Commons, argues that there is more to being an MP than standing up in Parliament.

First stop was Minstrils

ment. He has written more than 100 letters to Ministers arguing Winchester's case.

Mr Portillo then headed off to press the flesh on the doorstep. After trying three empty houses in the village of King's Worthy, Mr Portillo finally happened upon James and Andrea Hall, a retired ambulance man and nurse. To his surprise, they were fans.

"When are you going to get back in?" asked an excited Mr Hall. "You've got to get back in."

Also out on the by-election campaign trail yesterday, William Hague set aside memories of Piers Merchant's fall

from grace as he met the teenage pupils of a girls' school during a campaign tour of Beckenham, which also goes to the polls next Thursday.

Insisting that Mr Merchant was a "dashed neophyte", a seeming Mr Hague teased his audience as he toured the Langley Girls School. The by-election was caused by the resignation of Mr Merchant after he had an affair with a teenage nightshift hostess.

During a two-hour tour of the school Mr Hague stumbled across a classroom of pupils copying out nude figures by the French artist

Henri Matisse. Leaning over the shoulder of one student Mr Hague said: "You are doing much better than I could have done."

Jacqui Lait, the Conservative candidate in next Thursday's by-election, could only mutter that the classwork was "very different to our age".

Mr Hague told his audience that the by-election gave them a chance to ensure the government for its unprincipled behaviour.

"You have an opportunity in the by-election to say to the government that if you elect another Labour MP they will be lost amongst the

mass of Labour MPs." In one pointed question Rachel Benn, 16, asked bluntly whether the single currency would split the Tory party. Mr Hague gave an emphatic no, adding that he had received a "tremendous reception" when he warned the CBI of the dangers of EMU on Monday.

■ Winchester general election result: M. Oaten (LD) 26,100; G. Malone (C) 26,098; P. Davies (Lab) 6,528. Lib Dem majority 2.

■ Beckenham general election result: P. Merchant (C) 23,084; R. Hughes (Lab) 18,131; R. Vetterlein (LD) 9,858. Tory majority: 4,953

Rape victim, 56, makes appeal to her attacker

Civilians may help to investigate police

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT investigators may be recruited to examine allegations against police, a minister told MPs yesterday.

Alun Michael, the Home Office minister for police, said there were "strong arguments" for giving the Police Complaints Authority powers to appoint non-police investigators for cases that required specialist knowledge.

Complaints are usually investigated by officers from another force under the supervision of the authority. This has led to fears that inquiries are not independent and allegations that the police are being left to police themselves.

Although pressure groups have raised the idea of independent investigators, the Home Office has resisted it

because they would be seen as part of a team.

But he was not convinced by arguments that all police complaints should be investigated by an independent commission. He asked where the staff would be recruited from and who would pay.

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, has already said it would support independent investigators but questioned how they might be recruited. The Association of Chief Police Officers has also said it is not opposed in principle but chief constables question the costs and how a system of independent investigators might work. The complaints authority suggests it would cost up to £30 million a year.

Political funds

Continued from page 1 on some campaigning activities to repay the money quickly. There might even be some redundancies, although that seems unlikely. Labour spent £21 million in the two years up to the election and has a £4 million overdraft.

Asked yesterday if he expected something in return for his donation, Mr Ecclestone said: "I don't want anything. I still don't want anything."

He had made the gift in January when no one was discussing tobacco sponsorship and he described accusations that his donation was influential in the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on such sponsorship as "completely stupid" and "not fair".

But John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that Labour's admission of the donation sat uneasily with its rhetoric in opposition. Then it claimed that the party in government needed to be open

about funding. "In stark contrast, this admission has had to be dragged out of them under pressure from the media. Labour would never have admitted to this donation if the spotlight on the link between Formula One and Labour had not been highlighted last week."

During his *Today* interview, Mr Ashdown said that the present system of party funding put "excruciating judgments" in the hands of partisans that could lead to considerable difficulties. "It's not easy. It's important that parties should retain some of the legitimacy they get from fundraising in public. But also parties should not be drawn into decisions which can lead them to damage the reputation of our politics and political decision-making." There had to be a framework in which sensible decisions could be made.

William Hague has said that he is against state funding of political parties.

James' Palace in February 1994. The thief rifled the Prince's private apartments and took jewellery worth £65,000. The next day a man of Italian or Mediterranean appearance sold a pair of the Prince's cufflinks "for scrap" to a Hatton Garden bullion dealer but he was never caught and no other items were recovered.

Yesterday Signor Garassini said Rino, who is at present in jail for a string of petty offences, had told him that during a visit to London three years ago he had "burgle a splendid house in London without having any idea who its illustrious owner was". It was allegedly only later that Rino realised that the apartment belonged to the Prince from Camilla Parker Bowles.

Speaking through his lawyer, Alessandro Garassini, in Savona, he said he was willing to return the stolen items provided he was able to "meet the Prince and his son face to face". Signor Garassini said his understanding was that the British courts could not press charges against his client after a gap of three years. The burglary took place at St

Thief may return Prince's letters

BY RICHARD OWEN AND STEWART TENDLER

Britain's oldest presumed lost

Fly Emirates to Krung-thep-maha-nakorn-boworn-rat ana-kosin: mahintar-ayudhya-amaha-dilok-pop-nopa-ratana-rajthani-burirom-udom-ranjniwes-maha-sat-arn-amorn-pimarn-avatar-satit-sakattiya-visanukam.

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IN BRIEF

Lords back total ban on handguns

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Conjugal rights

Sinn Fein has called immediate negotiations on the release of its prisoners and, at the same time, for them to be allowed more room with their families, including "facilities for the enjoyment of conjugal relationships."

Inauguration party**Children at risk**

A million children in Britain could be left out on their own because they have to after an election. Many are abused physically and sexually, neglected emotionally, according to reports by the charities Abolish Child Abuse and Childline.

Victim 'wanted'

Rudolf Kuch, 20, shot in his car in West Bromwich last week, was being sought for murder of Meagan Welsh, 20, outside a nightclub in East Scotland Yard. Six men arrested after shooting have been charged and remanded on police bail.

Cool Yule tip

A day-long winter people who can't wait with Christmas have launched the first ship counter-attack. Relate, the 15-year-old November 26 at Southampton, has concentrated on less families to concentrate and not expertise.

Retiring this

A rhinoceros has retired to a quiet life because it can no longer breed. Now with two other older rhinos at the Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling, All come from the Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Herefordshire.

CORRECTION

A caption to an earlier photograph was incorrect. It was Flora, a fulmar, which had been seen in Scotland in summer, not Flora, the bird which was last seen in the Faroe Islands. The bird was a female.

Experts believe that Flora may be aged over 50. She has already outlived one of Scotland's best-known wildlife experts, who had been involved in a detailed study of fulmars on Eynhallow since 1951. George Dummett, a zoology professor, died suddenly two years ago aged 67. The fulmar study is being continued by Peter Cosgrove, 28, also of Aberdeen University.

At the Cultery field station at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Dr Cosgrove said yesterday: "We are very concerned that the bird may



Mischa with Rockwell in the film. She plays a child with a crush on the gardener

Little star is told that she must not see the big picture

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH actress who flew from New York to London for her first film premiere has been told that she will not be allowed to watch. Mischa Barton is 11 years old, and censors have given the film a 15-certificate.

The little star of *Lawn Dogs* was keeping fairly cool about the problem last night — she said she would prefer to go for an ice cream with her mother anyway. But the producer Duncan Kenworthy, whose last feature was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, said: "It's ironic that having spent two and a half months playing this role, she is still four years too young to be allowed to see the finished film."

Mischa will be allowed to stand briefly before the audience as the film is introduced tonight at the London Film Festival in Leicester Square. She was born in Hammersmith, West London, to British parents who later moved to New York. In the film, she plays a troubled ten-year-old who imagi-

nes a relationship with a 22-year-old man who mows her family's lawn.

Mrs Nuala Barton, whose husband is a financier, said that she has allowed Mischa to have a private screening on video, as there was nothing particularly explicit about the film, beyond what the male lead, played by Sam Rockwell, is seen jumping off a bridge in the nude and in a trailer with a woman.

"But that's a sound thing," she said. "You might see one breast, but it's not explicit and Mischa was not involved in it, though when you see it, it looks as if she's watching."

Mrs Barton said her daughter's discovery was like a fairy story. She was approached by agent who saw her perform a work created in a summer camp. Although many child stars do not come to terms with early success, Mischa has been performing in four off-Broadway plays since she was eight. "She

has come into this business from a serious perspective — the theatre", said her mother. "It's not a big money thing. It is for the love of doing it."

Mischa, who expects to be having ice cream with her mother and her younger sister, Hania, nine, said: "It's a funny feeling when they won't let you see your own movie. But I'm sort of secretly pleased. I love Häagen-Dazs."

Lawn Dogs goes on general release from November 21. Although shot in America, it was produced, directed and financed by Britain. The director was John Duigan, whose previous movies include *Sirens* and *Flirting*.

Mr Kenworthy, the producer, said: "With most child actors, you have to piece together a performance from here and there."

"With Mischa, we could have played every scene in its entirety as a close-up of her face, and you would never have caught a single false moment."



Missing the premiere, but hoping for an ice cream instead: Mischa with her sister Hania, 9

Rape victim, 56, makes appeal to her attacker

BY JOANNA BALE

A GRANDMOTHER who was raped by a man suspected of a series of attacks on women yesterday urged him to give himself up.

In a rare public appeal by a rape victim, the 56-year-old businesswoman described how the man dragged her into bushes as she walked alone in the dark to a car park in Saffron Walden, Essex.

The man told her he had a knife, punched her in the face, and ripped off her clothing during the ten-minute ordeal last Wednesday evening.

Afterwards she managed to alert a 17-year-old man in a parked car who called the police.

The mother of four told a press conference how she managed a conversation with her attacker despite her terror. "I said, 'Would you want your mother to go through this?' and he said 'No, I wouldn't let it happen.'

"I said that if there was another rapist like him out there, maybe his mother would be next."

She said she had a message for her attacker: "I beg you to please come forward. You need help. Nobody in their right mind would have done

Bulger mother is upset by ruling

BY RICHARD FORD

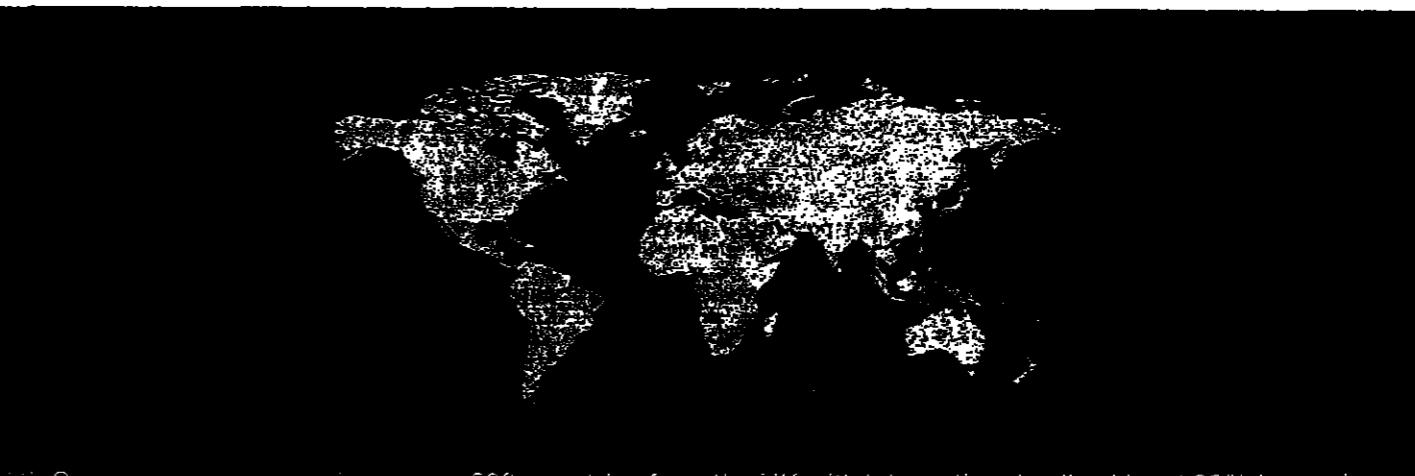
THE mother of James Bulger yesterday criticised the Home Secretary's failure to inform her of new rules governing the detention of the two boys who murdered her son.

Denise Bulger, 30, said: "The Home Secretary has said that he will consider early release of my son's murderers. I cannot put into words how upset I am by this news. I need to know where I stand so I can do what I can to ensure that they serve the 'very many years' that the trial judge said they should serve."

Her adult son, who sat by her at the press conference at Braintree police station, Essex, sobbed as she spoke of her ordeal.

Urging other victims to come forward, she said: "I think it's very important that I make this appeal so that other people who have been raped will know that you can survive and you need to be strong."

Police have linked the attack with the rape of a 21-year-old woman in Kelvedon, ten miles away, on August 5. They also believe he may have knocked out a young Japanese language student in Saffron Walden a week before, and raped a French student near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, on October 3. He is described as about 20 with very short hair.



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Fulmars normally do not live beyond 25 years

now be dead. The only other possibility is that she is still roaming the oceans because she is maybe too old to breed. It would be a real shame if that is the case because I have grown very fond of her."

Flora became so used to scientists' interest that whenever they went to put a new ring on her every year she

had laid at least one egg a year ever since.

Experts believe that Flora may be aged over 50. She has already outlived one of Scotland's best-known wildlife experts, who had been involved in a detailed study of fulmars on Eynhallow since 1951. George Dummett, a zoology professor, died suddenly two years ago aged 67. The fulmar study is being continued by Peter Cosgrove, 28, also of Aberdeen University.

At the Cultery field station at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Dr Cosgrove said yesterday: "We are very concerned that the bird may

Queen declines to fill up with 99p hot dog

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Queen was introduced to the delights of do-it-yourself hot dogs yesterday but declined to share the experience of those of her subjects who like to eat on the move.

The 99p hot dogs, among a variety of petrol station fare, caught the eye of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during a visit to the London headquarters of Shell. Both were apparently a little astonished by this latest product offered to motorists at filling station forecourt shops.

The "machine" containing rows of sausages and neatly-wrapped rolls, with serve-yourself tongs, was on display at an exhibition marking the centenary of Shell.

Hazel Cannell, manager of Shell shops' areas, said: "The Queen was surprised at the eating people do on the move these days and that there was such a thing as hot dogs that people make up themselves."

Despite the presence of large plastic bottles of ketchup and mustard for customers' use, the Queen and the Duke declined even a single bite. Nor were they tempted by chicken korma, cheeseburgers and beefburgers with relish, each in little boxes, designed for heating in the adjoining microwave ovens.

The Duke said he had read that in Scotland only 40 per cent of people eat together as families now. Raju Sivakumaran, a regional shops manager, said: "He took a lot of interest, asking who makes our sandwiches and how long things keep fresh. He was very interested in the hot dogs but he didn't let on whether he had ever had a hot dog himself."

It's hard to swim when you've been running for three hours.

On average, a stag hunt lasts 3 hours and covers around 12 miles.

When the stag is finally caught by the hounds it is at the point of total exhaustion.

Scientific analysis of blood samples taken from hunted stags reveals a litany of suffering.

In the early stages of the chase, glycogen and blood sugar levels fall sharply.

As the hunt progresses, fatty acids in the blood rise, indicating high physiological stress levels.

Red pigment in blood plasma increases, caused by ruptured blood cells.

In the later stages of the hunt, high levels of muscle enzymes appear in the blood, indicating life-threatening muscle damage.

Despite its name, stag hunting is not confined to the male of the species.

Hinds are hunted too, sometimes when they are pregnant or with a calf at heel.

Stag or hind, the end is the same. A free wild animal is hunted to death.

The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

In areas where deer need culling it is more efficient and more humane for them

to be shot by a marksman.

We believe that the hunting of wild animals is cruel and unacceptable in a civilised society.

And the vast majority of the people in this country agree with us.

A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October 1997 shows that 73% of people support the Bill. We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

The 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in

their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House and vote to end this cruel 'sport' once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons, or call the RSPCA on 01403 223284 (9-5 weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

And if you need further motivation, look again at the stag in the picture.

Look him in the eye.
And tell him you can't be bothered.

RSPCA

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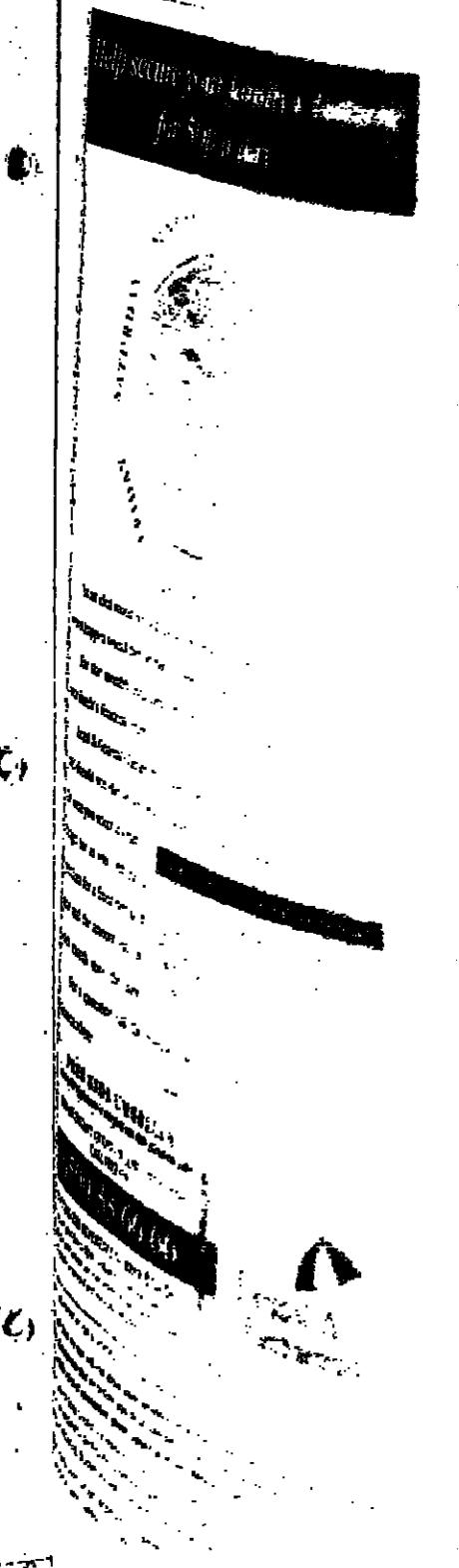
Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.



au pair's
could be
more tha

Eappens stay
on offensive
over ruling



Au pair's story could be worth more than £1m

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LOUISE WOODWARD
Wants to make more than £1m from newspaper, film and book deals once she is back in Britain, experts said last night. Several US film companies have begun bidding for the rights to her story.

But Miss Woodward's lawyer, Barry Scheck, has advised her to sign nothing until the legal process in America has been completed.

The prosecution lawyers are appealing against her revised sentence and Miss Woodward herself is appealing against her conviction for manslaughter, a process which could take months. Public opinion in the US is already turning against the au pair and her advisers are concerned that she does not appear to be cashing in on her freedom.

Miss Woodward's family had a £50,000 agreement with the *Daily Mail* based on her



Woodward: advised not to sign contracts yet

acquittal. It expired several days ago but it is understood the newspaper is bidding for a new contract against several other newspapers.

Hello! magazine is understood to have offered £100,000 for the first pictures of the Woodward family reunited.

Eappens stay on offensive over ruling

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN CAMBRIDGE

THE mother of Matthew Eappen criticised Judge Hiller Zobel yesterday for freeing Louise Woodward. While newspaper editorials across America greeted her release with approval, Deborah Eappen said: "To see Louise essentially exonerated, released to the cheers of her fan club—to see her as some kind of hero—what is Judge Zobel thinking?"

Polls suggested that popular opinion, while in favour of the judge's ruling to reduce the charges to manslaughter, was against his decision to free her so soon. In a joint poll conducted by the newspaper USA Today, CNN television and Gallup, 52 per cent disapproved of the au pair's release, with 37 per cent in favour.

In an interview with *The Boston Globe*, Deborah Eappen attacked what the judge described as "a compassionate conclusion". She said: "Compassionate for whom? For a defendant who didn't ask for compassion? For a defendant who didn't take responsibility, who denies what she did, who is in denial about the seriousness of her actions?"

She added: "Louise killed

is justice?"

Paying money to convicted criminals and their families is against the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice. But Lord Rothermere, chairman of the Daily Mail & General Trust, last night defended the move adding that "pedants make poor journalists".

He said that victims could only sue criminals for compensation if they had money. "If you pay convicted people for their story it enables the victim to sue for compensation," he said.

A crew from Carlton Television's *The Big Story* has had an arrangement with Mr and Mrs Woodward but a spokesman said there have been no payments made.

The publicist Max Clifford yesterday claimed he had been asked to represent Miss Woodward but refused because he did not believe she was innocent. He estimated she would make at least £500,000 for her story but the

acquittal. It expired several days ago but it is understood the newspaper is bidding for a new contract against several other newspapers.

Hello! magazine is understood to have offered £100,000 for the first pictures of the Woodward family reunited.

money should be given to charity. He told Talk Radio: "If she wants to retain the popularity and compassion of the British public she will have to be careful what she does."

Sky News claimed that the number of viewers who watched Miss Woodward

being sentenced on Monday broke its records, with 1.7 million watching in Britain alone.

The case has also prompted attacks on the competence of childcare experts involved. Miss Woodward's legal team turned their fire yesterday on "bogus specialists in the child abuse industry" who had whipped up hysteria.

Mr Scheck said that the American National Academy of the Sciences should put together a team to define "shaken baby syndrome" and other supposed symptoms of child abuse.

Writing in yesterday's *Wall*

Street Journal, Harvey Silvergate, another of Miss Woodward's team, called for a crusade against "junk science". He blamed her original conviction for murder on the manipulation of the jury by "ideologically motivated physicians, social scientists and social workers who proceed

from trial to trial offering seemingly incontrovertible scientific evidence that a seriously injured child had to have been the victim of abuse, rather than of accident or even illness".

Nigella Lawson, page 20
Letters, page 23



The tragedy of Louise Woodward's time with the Eappen family has led to a frenzy of bidding by media groups for her first-hand account

“

You know
how some homes
feel right
the moment you
walk in.

“

BEAUTIFUL
LIVING

OUT ON NOVEMBER 11th

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New Irish President makes peace priority

Mary McAleese aims to end bitter enmities, reports Audrey Magee

MARY McALEESE was sworn in as the eighth President of Ireland yesterday and pledged to use her seven-year term to bring peace to Ulster.

Mrs McAleese, a former Belfast law professor and first Irish President from Northern Ireland, said it was possible to end the enmity between Unionists and nationalists if people across Ireland worked with her to create a "wonderful millennium gift" of peace.

A Roman Catholic and unapologetic nationalist from Ardoyne in Belfast, Mrs McAleese said that she wanted to help to unite nationalist and Unionists. Neither side had a monopoly on pain and both had suffered intensely from the 28 years of conflict, she said.

"We hope and pray, indeed we insist, that we have seen the last of violence. We demand the right to solve our problems by dialogue and the noble pursuit of consensus," she said.

Mrs McAleese acknowledged, however, that mistrust ran deep and that to speak of reconciliation was to "raise a nervous query" in those in Northern Ireland who support British rule. She said it was fitting that her inauguration in Dublin Castle coincided with Armistice Day, the day to remember Unionists and na-



Mrs McAleese's children look on as she takes the oath of office during the inauguration at Dublin Castle

tionals who fought side by side during the world wars.

Mrs McAleese declined, however, to wear a poppy to remember the dead. The flower is widely viewed by nationalists as a symbol of Unionism.

Her pledge to build bridges was undermined, however, by the absence of Ulster's Unionists at the inauguration ceremony. They declined invitations in protest at Articles 2

and 3 of the Irish Constitution laying territorial claim to Northern Ireland.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, was among the 600 guests in St Patrick's Hall. He sat next to John Hume, SDLP leader, who was next to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Lord Alderdice, the Alliance Party leader, was also present despite his call to Mrs McAleese to stand down after

Her speech met with a frosty reception from Unionists. Jeffrey Donaldson, UUP MP for Lagan Valley, said said Mrs McAleese would have to back words with deeds.

"If she wants to be a bridge builder she will have to encourage the Irish Government to drop its constitutional claim over Northern Ireland," he said.

The newly appointed UN Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking in

Oxford, said that the UN had "lost the plot" on fighting abuses and that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was no occasion for celebration.

She said: "We still have widespread discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religious belief, or sexual orientation and there is still genocide—twice in this decade alone. There are 48

countries with more than one fifth of the population living in what we have grown used to calling 'absolute poverty'."

She said such failures cried out for a fresh approach and said she would be writing to all Governments to support her work, and to all foreign ministers to review the results of the Vienna human rights convention five years after its signature.



School pupils greet Mary McAleese after the ceremony in which many strands of Irish life were represented

Robinson attacks UN's record

By MICHAEL BINNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARY ROBINSON, the former President of Ireland, yesterday launched a scathing attack on her new employer, the United Nations, accusing it of wasting billions of dollars and failing "on a scale that shames us all".

The newly appointed UN Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking in

Oxford, said that the UN had "lost the plot" on fighting abuses and that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was no occasion for celebration.

She said: "We still have widespread discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religious belief, or sexual orientation and there is still genocide—twice in this decade alone. There are 48

Ukrainian sailor tried to swap lethal pen for TV

A UKRAINIAN sailor who

tried to swap a James Bond-style pen gun for a colour television was fined £500 yes-

terday. Alexander Osipenko

told a shopkeeper he tried to

do the deal with: "You have

burglars, you kill them, by

pen."

A police armourer said the device could fire shotgun pellets or CS gas bullets, and could be lethal.

Janet Furlonger, for the prosecution, told Camborne Magistrates Court that the 35-year-old Ukrainian was third in command on the *Zodiak*, a Russian fish factory ship.

He said he and a shipmate went into the Cornish port of Falmouth looking for electrical goods. The pair went into the Dig and Dene second-hand shop and inquired about a television set. Osipenko then pulled out the fountain pen gun from his jacket pocket and offered it to Geoffrey Camden-Wiles, the shopkeeper.

Through a translator, Osipenko admitted a charge of possessing a firearm which was disguised as a pen. He was fined £500 plus £54 costs. The gun was destroyed.

Bulgaria in Crisis

LEFT TO FREEZE
Yordan, 18, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

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NOMBASA

Gift made Ecclestone a champion party backer

By NICHOLAS WOOD

BERNIE ECCLESTONE'S admission yesterday that in January he gave Labour £1 million places him in pole position among backers of the people's party.

Only Matthew Harding, the Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman who died last year, matched the generosity of the Formula One king, who was paid £54 million last year and gave the Tories £8 million before his change of heart.

Mr Harding also gave £1 million to Labour coffers shortly before his death in a helicopter crash. Next in line is the millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn, who has contributed £600,000 to the party.

But these kinds of gifts, unheard of back in the early 1980s when Labour was still at odds with the bosses, are no rich man's whim. They represent the fruits of a concerted attempt by Tony Blair and his lieutenants to widen his party's appeal and recruit support and cash from some of Britain's most dynamic entrepreneurs.

In Labour's annual accounts, they are coyly referred to as "high value donors". The latest set of accounts highlight the way the boardroom brethren are rapidly replacing the unions as the main source of Labour funds. Labour's total net income in 1996 was £17.1 million — 37 per cent up on the previous year. At £7.7 million the unions provided 45 per cent of the total. But at £6.2 million (37 per cent), fundraising was not far behind. Of this sum, £3.5 million came from the kind of people Labour once denounced as fat cats.

In 1986, the unions accounted for 76 per cent of Labour income, while activities such as tapping the pockets of rich business yielded a measly 6 per cent.

Unlike the Tories, for the past two years Labour has published the names of its wealthy backers, defined as those who give more than



Bernie Ecclestone and his Croatian wife Savica, a former model set to become Britain's wealthiest woman

£1m was small change to the tycoon called Bernie the Bolt

Dominic Kennedy on the life and style of the billionaire Labour supporter who got his money back

WHEN Tony Blair first shook hands with Bernie Ecclestone he was simply the latest in a long line to benefit from the Formula One supremo's Midas touch. For Labour it was a million-pound handshake. For Mr Ecclestone, soon to be a billionaire from the flotation of his racing empire, it was small change.

The 5ft 4in 67-year-old trawlerman's son lives and works from a nine-storey £7 million Knightsbridge mansion. For tax reasons 80 per cent of his business is owned by his 6ft 2in Croatian wife Savica, who is more than 25 years his junior.

He met the former Armani model, his second wife, at the Monza circuit in 1983 and married her in 1985. Slavica, the daughter of a fireman who left school at 16 is said to be the person he trusts most with his business affairs. She will become Britain's wealthiest woman when he floats the £1.5 billion Formula One Holdings on the stock market next year, netting the family between £750 million and £1 billion.

Amid much controversy, some donors have been given peerages. They include Mr Sainsbury, Swraj Paul, the Indian-born chairman of the Caparo Group, a family-owned steel business, the film director Sir David Puttnam, Michael Monique, a wealthy businessman who used to run the English Tourist Board, and the writer Ruth Rendell.

His office and home are decorated by Spanish paint-

ings and a valuable collection of netsukes, finely carved miniature Japanese sculptures. When in London he patronises ultra-fashionable restaurants, where he has been seen dining with leading politicians.

However, most of his year is spent working 16-hour days in a long, sleek, grey executive coach known as "Bernie's Bus", a familiar sight at Grand Prix circuits where a never-ending procession of owners, managers, agents and drivers conduct the succession of deals that keeps the Formula One juggernaut on the road.

The intense loyalty he commands from most people in the sport is based on the huge amount of money he has brought into the game, transferring obscure engineers into multi-millionaire managing directors of race teams.

His trusted lieutenant is an Italian known as Pasquale, the

only person to call him "Mr Ecclestone". To everyone else he is "Mr E", "Bernie", "The Little Man" or "Bernie The Bolt".

He is a sharp dresser wearing shirt, tie and slacks. With a cockney accent refined to fit the company he keeps, he is the master of the one-liner. When environmentalists threatened to shoot him because some trees had been chopped down to create the Melbourne racing circuit, he quipped: "They had better get me with the first shot."

Mr Ecclestone was born in Suffolk and later moved to Bexley in Kent. He studied chemical engineering at Woolwich Polytechnic, but had bought and sold motorcycles from the age of 15 and made his fortune from car auctions, and a chain of motorcycle dealerships. Using the money

How can Blair have missed danger signs?

TONY BLAIR and his advisers quickly need to learn the difference between Opposition and Government. They have behaved with astonishing naivety and foolishness over the Bernie Ecclestone donation. Mr Blair has a soft spot for successful entrepreneurs, but he has been gullible. Out of office, no one questions too closely discussions with businessmen, but, in office, there are rules and procedures to be followed.

How can Mr Blair and his inner circle not have realised the dangers of the appearance of a conflict of interest when he overruled the advice of the Health Department and granted a special exemption from the ban on tobacco sponsorship to a businessman who had given Labour £1 million only months before the election?

After all, Mr Ecclestone was hardly a committed Labour supporter, having previously given even larger sums to the Tories.

As

Professor

Anthony

King,

a member of the Neill

(formerly the Nolan)

committee, has pointed out, such

conflicts are covered in the

Ministerial Code

which Mr Blair issued in a revised

form in July. It is odd that

the Blair team

has not learnt

about the scandals that the

Democrats

have faced over

fundraising from business.

Labour's total of £27 million

in the 18 months before the

election has echoes of the

Clinton White House money

machine in 1995-96.

No wonder 10 Downing

Street was in a tizzy yester-

day — talking about very

serious ramifications

and saying everything was up for

review — disclosure, limits

on contributions and spending

and state funding. The

Blair camp is desperate to

retake the political initiative

and turn the tables on the

Tories. But before everyone

rushes to urge radical re-

forms, they should pause

and reflect. What sort of

party structure do we want?

How much do we want to

encourage the participation

of individual members

or to strengthen centralised

control?

State funding can ossify a

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

American experience shows that limits on contributions are easily evaded.

The best answer is total disclosure administered by a new electoral commission which would supervise elections and parties generally. All donations of above £1,000 in any year to parties or any other bodies seeking to influence an election would have to be published within a month. Similarly, when anyone receives an honour or a public appointment, any political donation should be revealed.

Tighter disclosure requirements, as well as the proposed ban on foreign donations, could be included in the promised Home Office Bill this session, while the longer-term issues should be considered by the Neill committee. However, the belated promises of tough action and a new broom should be treated sceptically. Funding reforms tend to have unintended and perverse consequences.

PETER RIDDELL

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Free museums 'are perk for middle classes'

The people running national collections are split on the merits of charging visitors, reports Dalya Alberge

MUSEUMS and galleries should charge for admission because otherwise the poor are subsidising middle-class visitors through taxes, the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum said yesterday.

Every survey, including one published yesterday, showed that most visitors were ABC1s, Alan Borg said. "To provide free entry for them out of the public purse amounts to providing a subsidy to the middle classes."

Mr Borg, speaking in a debate, "Who pays for museums?", drew an impassioned response from the heads of other leading institutions. Earlier they had heard the Arts Minister, Mark Fisher, liken running a museum to a department store. He asked the directors of the generally cash-strapped institutions whether they "measured up well to the best practice in the retail sector, for example, Marks & Spencer and Harvey Nichols."

Julian Spalding, Director of the Glasgow Museums, said that he grew up on a council estate in South London and that museums, entered for free, were the "wider horizons" that had inspired him. "Do we just want to be left with shopping centres?" he asked. The Government should maintain them not as a privilege but as a vision.

Tim Clifford, Director of the National Galleries of Scotland, lamented how the public was to be charged by the National Museum of Scotland to see great Celtic crosses which they could once see for nothing in the countryside. The debate at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, was timed to coincide with a report on admission charges by Glasgow Caledonian University and the Central Office of Information, which found that among people who did not visit museums, only 4 per cent cited admission charges as a disincentive. The report found

lack of time was the main reason for not going. More than half the adults surveyed expressed interest in visiting, and 71 per cent supported voluntary donations.

Although Mr Fisher yesterday reiterated his support for the principle of free entry, David Barrie, Director of the National Art Collections Fund, was among many who

Leading article, page 23

sensed that the Government had performed a U-turn on earlier promises. Mr Barrie said: "Mark Fisher's speech strongly suggests that they have no intention of discouraging the introduction of admission charges; nor are they going to provide the additional money that alone would enable our major non-charging national museums to avoid introducing them."

Jennifer Edwards, of the National Campaign for the Arts, said that polls of political voting intentions showed that respondents did not always

say what they meant. She cited Ipswich whose museum had introduced a £2 charge and saw visitors drop by 61 per cent.

Some suggested free days at institutions that normally charged and others spoke of charging only for temporary shows in the debate organised by the Museums and Galleries Commission. But most speakers said that fees only created barriers, deterring repeat visits.

The V&A introduced compulsory charges in October 1996, allowing free entrance for children, students and everyone after 4.30pm. Dr Borg said that as between 40 and 45 per cent of visitors entered free, he felt sure that no one was deterred from coming. Before turnstiles V&A attendance figures were not counted.

Dr Borg said that those who held to the principle of free entry must find a solution: "No one likes charging *per se*. If you believe in principle that charging is wrong, then you have a problem in a world in which the financial resources available to museums are shrinking. If you do not believe it is wrong in principle, then charging becomes part of the solution to making museums as good and thereby as accessible as possible."

Sir Terence Conran, attending as chairman of the Design Museum, said: "We get no grant from Government. We have to charge to keep the museum alive. Our life is made more difficult by the number of national museums who don't charge. Why should you have to charge if they don't?" is a question often asked.

Lord Puttnam, attending as chairman of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, pointed to the way cinema had tripled its figures in the last few years, having looked beyond seat prices to improving the quality of the experience.



The British Museum, where a £5 admission charge was proposed last year as one solution to an impending budget crisis, but so far payment remains voluntary

However, Neil McGregor, Director of the National Gallery, said that institutions had a duty to remain free. Money could be raised through shops and restaurants. If people could enter freely, they approached the experience in a "different spirit, more relaxed and more confident". He noted that 45 per cent of their visitors were from overseas.

Sir Denis Mahon, the collector who has threatened to rethink his bequest to the nation if charges are intro-

duced, said that tourists boosted the economy, spending in hotels, restaurants and transport. Charges were a shortsighted means that would bring an unhappy end.

Karen Hull, Director of Reading Museum Service, said that museum collections were the property of the people. "Museum charges would mean they pay twice."

Lord Spalding, drew support from many when he called for changes to VAT and tax relief for donors of works

of art towards the American system. It had helped to build fine collections there.

On VAT, Timothy Wilson, Director of the Ashmolean Museum, said that the "regime is an ass". In buying a Canova bust, matching the price paid by the Getty Museum in California, the museum had to pay £54,000 in VAT. "That was not only extra money that had to be found, but one interested benefactor was so incensed that he withdrew his donation."

The case continues.

Painted Marines battled carry-on soldiers

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT was like a scene from a *Carry on* remake of *Braveheart*. Royal Marines dressed as Highland warriors and with faces painted in *Braveheart* style fought with soldiers in women's clothes after the two groups chose the same bar for their pre-Christmas party, a court was told yesterday.

A police officer said his van was surrounded by Marines brandishing imitation broadswords after one of their colleagues had been arrested for fighting.

Judge Ian McKintosh told PC Andrew White at Barnstaple Crown Court: "I don't think that scene appears in the film."

Marine Nicol Hemmings, 26, from Chivenor, and Royal Engineer Darren Fairhurst, 28, from Fremington, Devon, both deny causing an affray on December 13 last year. They were among a group of 30 to 40 servicemen in fancy dress brawling in the street outside the pub, according to police.

Alan Large, for the prosecution, said: "Marine Hemmings was wearing a kilt and had his face painted blue in the style of the film *Braveheart*, and several of those from the Army were wearing ladies' clothing."

Trouble began when the Marines ran into members of the Army's Independent Commando Group at a bar called Mr Bertie's in Barnstaple. After leaving the pub, the jury was told, fighting broke out as a Marine in a kilt and with a St Andrew's cross on his face attacked a rival.

Police Sergeant Michelle Slevin said she saw Engineer Fairhurst lunge at the rival group and as she restrained him, Marine Hemmings started throwing punches over her shoulder. As other police came to her aid and the two were arrested. Engineer Fairhurst allegedly headbutted the Marine.

The case continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Summerhayes: fall

Parents call for answers over death of sailor

The parents of Keith Summerhayes, 27, Chief Petty Officer on the frigate *HMS London*, were last night demanding an explanation after his body was found in the doorway of a block of flats in El Ferrol, northwest Spain, where the frigate was on a routine visit. His mother Carol, of Birmingham, said: "We have been told he fell down some stairs." Her son had become engaged last week.

Patients suffer

Cancer patients are suffering because of a critical shortage of skilled nurses, doctors and therapists, the King's Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign and Macmillan Cancer Relief say in a report. Urgent action is needed to recruit and train more specialists.

Knife trial halted

The trial of a teenager accused of knifing a woman graduate in the head on a train was halted after his barrister fell ill and the Old Bailey jury was discharged. Robert Buckley, 17, of no fixed address, denies attempting to murder Alison Kennedy, 28.

Bus queue crash

A woman suffered head injuries and broken legs when a car driven by an elderly woman ploughed through a bus queue and crashed into a house at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. Five others in the queue were treated for cuts. The driver suffered minor injuries.

Help for addicts

All prisoners wanting to conquer addictions to hard drugs should have a place in a special testing unit over the next few years, the Government said. A rolling programme will gradually increase the 4,000 existing places until demand is met.

CJD appeal

The Court of Appeal has reserved judgment in the case of the parents of a group of children who developed the human form of "mad cow" disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. They are challenging their exclusion from government compensation.

Reels net £26,000

A collection of fishing reels made by Hardy Brothers of Alnwick, Northumberland, sold for £26,000 at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, yesterday. They included a 1930s tournament reel which fetched £8,625, four times its estimated price.

Producer banned

Richard Pearson, 35, producer of BBC2's *Top Gear* motoring programme, has been banned from driving for three weeks and fined £600 with £30 costs by magistrates at King's Lynn, Norfolk, after admitting driving at 107mph in a 70mph limit on the A47.

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NHS calls for study of alternative therapies

BY MARK HENDERSON

COMPLEMENTARY medicine needs to be more tightly regulated and to introduce recognised qualifications if it is to become an integrated part of healthcare, the NHS Confederation said yesterday.

A report for the confederation, which represents health authorities and NHS trusts, found that the bewildering range of professional organisations and training courses was making it difficult for GPs and trusts to make informed choices about complementary medicine.

Under current rules, a nurse who has taken a weekend course in acupuncture can work on the same basis as a practitioner with years of experience, often without adequate insurance cover. Only osteopathy and chiropractic are regulated by a single professional body.

The report follows the Prince of Wales's call last month for alternative therapies to become more widely available on the NHS. The confederation wants a government review of complementary medicine's effectiveness and training and regulation procedures.

"We need a national initiative, funded by the Government, to discover how complementary treatments can best be used by the NHS," Yvonne Mounsey, project officer for the NHS Confederation said.

GPs and trusts who used alternative medicine had no way of knowing what they were getting for their money, she said. "There is little evidence to medical effectiveness."

There are 143 professional organisations for complementary medicines, representing 14 disciplines.

The report, which surveyed 651 health professionals and alternative practitioners in Leicestershire, found that complementary medicine was used at a low but significant level within the NHS.

More than a third of midwives said they used complementary techniques, mostly aromatherapy, and 28 per cent of GPs referred patients to

alternative practitioners. The lowest use was among dentists, just 6 per cent of whom had used complementary medicine. Aromatherapy, acupuncture and massage were the most commonly used techniques.

The NHS spends less than £1 million a year on alternative therapies, whereas the market is worth more than £100 million a year. The report found only 15 per cent of complementary practitioners work within the NHS.

David Tredinnick, MP, chairman of the Parliamentary Group for Complementary Medicine, said that such government action was essential to improve public access to alternative therapy. "We need to establish which treatments and practitioners we can have faith in," he said. "They can save the NHS a lot of money."

The Department of Health said it had started to explore the recommendations of the *Integrated Healthcare* report and would consider the NHS Confederation's findings.

Adverts are bare cheek to men

Carol Midgley on a watchdog's fears about 'demeaning' images urging women to put the boot in

and reflecting the prevailing *Girl Power* mood".

There were also complaints about a Nissan car advert which portrays a man holding his crotch in pain, with the headline:

"The Mira. Ask before you buy it."

Nissan said that the advert was humorous, and portrayed the anger felt by women when their ears were borrowed without permission.

Another campaign which attracted criticism was for Wallis clothing stores. Under the slogan "Dressed to Kill", it shows women

wearing clothes which distract male motorists, causing them to have fatal accidents.

The ASA's monthly bulletin said the complaints had not been upheld, but urged advertisers to use caution.

Taking up the Spice Girls' slogan of *Girl Power*, it pointed out: "For the moment at least, *Girl Power* is alive and well. Inevitably, some advertisers seem to have tried to capture the essence of this phenomenon by either portraying men being demeaned by women, or portraying women play-

ing on their desirability to and power over men.

"Although undoubtedly complainants felt these campaigns were tasteless and objectionable, the authority did not feel that the advertisements were likely to cause serious or widespread offence. However, the objections serve as a reminder that suggestions of violence in advertisements tend not to find favour with the public, whatever the victim's gender and however humorous the intention."

□ The ASA ordered cosmetic surgery clinics not to play down the risks of operations in their adverts, and said that they should not make a claim of being a "leading" establishment without being able to support it.

Features, page 20

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Bevin boys get call-up papers after 50 years

BY ALAN HAMILTON
AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

BELATED recognition may soon be granted to a forgotten but vital wartime army that kept Britain supplied with fuel in the darkest days of the 1940s.

When the country was blockaded by U-boats and a huge proportion of the coal industry's manpower had been called up for active service, Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, decreed in 1940 that one in ten conscripts between the ages of 18 and 25 should go down the mines.

In the half century since the end of the war, the "Bevin boys" have felt neglected. Their principal complaint is that they have never been allowed to join their ex-Service comrades in the annual veterans' parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

But in a letter this week to the Bevin Boys' Association, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has indicated that they may be able to take their place in future parades alongside comrades who saw active service.

Mr Straw said that although it was too late for them to be included in last Sunday's ceremony, "I very much hope we will be able to



Bevin: sent conscripts into undermanned pits

sort things out to everyone's satisfaction in time for next year's ceremony."

Phil Wood, chairman of the association, said at a reunion at the Imperial War Museum yesterday: "This is great news, and the end of a long campaign to achieve recognition more than half a century after the end of the war. In the past the Royal British Legion has steadfastly refused to acknowledge our existence."

The Bevin boys were created under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act of 1940, when the mining industry began to face a critical shortage of

labour. In 1943 there were 48,000 conscripts in the pits. Today their association has some 1,250 members.

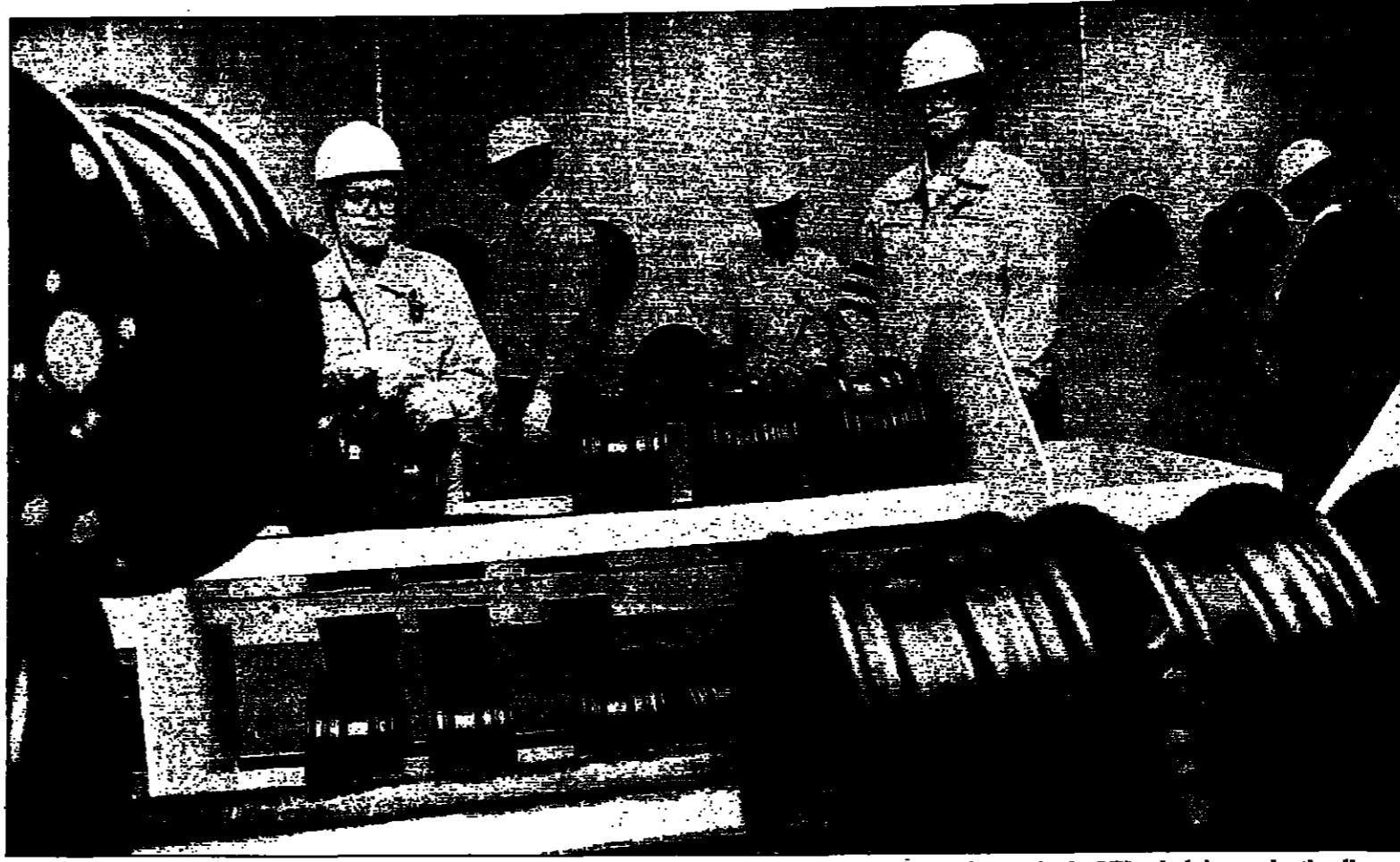
Mr Wood, 70, a retired sales manager from Dunston, Staffordshire, spent four years in Brierley pit, south Yorkshire, and Littleton pit at Cannock. "Most of us wanted to join the forces, but we had no option. In retrospect, however, it was a great experience," he said.

Among famous old Bevin boys are Sir Jimmy Savile and the playwright Peter Shaffer. Sir Jimmy, who spent seven years down three pits, said he would welcome any recognition on behalf of colleagues who felt their contribution had not been recognised.

"While we were not a complaining lot, we did have very different experiences to others who were conscripted, and many feel they have been ignored," he said. "I actually enjoyed it a great deal and met some marvellous people. But I am glad that finally we may have our moment."

Other Bevin boys include Paul Hamlyn, the multimillionaire publisher and Labour Party benefactor, and Sidney Parkinson, father of the Conservative Party chairman, Lord Parkinson.

For the conscripts sent down the mines instead of into active



Employees at the Toyota plant in Derbyshire observing the silence. This was the first Japanese factory in the UK to halt its production line

service, there was often a feeling of shame. Warwick Taylor, 71, of Cerne Abbas, Dorset, vice-chairman of the association, said: "I was set on joining the RAF. It came as a dreadful shock when I was told I had to go down the mines. I went to Oakdale pit in South Wales with a sinking heart and great trepidation. My mother was horrified."

One of the oldest Bevin boys is John Platts-Mills, QC, a Labour MP in the 1940s and still a barrister at the age of 91. He was rare in that, having

worked on Winston Churchill's personal staff, he volunteered to work in the mines. "It was a tiring experience, hewing ten tons of coal a day for 18 months," he recalled.

Ten thousand ex-service men marched down Whitehall on Sunday to lay their wreaths. Since 1990 the Royal British Legion has included a contingent of war widows. The legion admits that as more veterans die, the ranks may have to be widened to include, for example, the sons and daughters of ex-servicemen.

Even the skies were quiet: the departure of Concorde from Heathrow to New York was delayed by 45 minutes to ensure the roar of its engines would not mar the moment. At airports all activity stopped, and at train stations Railtrack made announcements inviting passengers to remember the war dead. Many buses pulled over and cut their engines for two minutes.

For the first time, all major stores joined more than 200 companies and organisations in backing the campaign for Armistice Day to be honoured throughout the land.

In Edinburgh the One O'Clock Gun was fired at 11am. In London the neon lights in Piccadilly Circus were switched off. At the Stock Exchange the trading floor was hushed.

As the nation's political leaders, led by Tony Blair, observed the moment, scenes at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and St James's Palace stood to attention and saluted arms. At Horse Guards Parade, Life Guards "carried swords".

While official pomp and ceremony were routinely observed, with the Duke of York joining submarine veterans in

Millions observe respectful silence

BY TIM JONES
AND KEVIN EASON

MEDALS GIVEN TO MUSEUM

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Two of the most famous Victoria Crosses in private ownership were handed over to The Green Howards regiment last night at an Armistice Day ceremony at the Tower of London.

The VCs awarded to Private Henry Tandey, the most decorated private soldier of the First World War, and Company Sergeant Major Stanley Hollis, the only serviceman to win the medal on D-Day, will now reside in The Green Howards museum in Richmond, North Yorkshire. Both soldiers served with the regi-

ment. The two medal sets were bought at auction by Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman of Racial Electronics and a trustee of The Green Howards Normandy Memorial Trust. The Tandey VC sold for £27,000 in 1980 and the Hollis VC for £32,000 in 1982.

Sir Ernest had intended to bequeath the VCs to The Green Howards in his will. However, after a visit to the regimental museum, he decided they should be displayed alongside the 13 other Victoria Crosses exhibited there.

ation planted trees dedicated to those involved in the Far East campaigns.

Toyota became the first Japanese factory to honour the remembrance tribute, allowing its assembly lines at Burnaston, Derbyshire, to be stopped. More than 50 Japanese workers joined the act of remembrance. Staff at Honda also stopped work at Ilam.

More than 100 local authorities fired maroons to mark the start and end of the silence. A defective maroon launched from Ealing town hall, West London, exploded on impact, setting fire to five parked cars and damaging four others.

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The Great Britain rugby league squad standing in tribute to the war dead in Leeds

Woman in coma allowed to die

BY FRANCES GIBB

A WOMAN who lost consciousness more than three and a half years ago, after a "final" drink and drug party left her into a persistent vegetative state, is to be allowed to die.

The High Court yesterday gave doctors permission to withdraw life-sustaining treatment and medical support from the 43-year-old woman, referred to as Miss L.

"This unfortunate lady left the living world in its true sense on March 4, 1994," Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, said. "She has never since been aware of anything which has gone on about her."

The judge had heard from Claire Johnston, the Official Solicitor, that Miss L, a drug addict, was "an unusual, wild lady, but not a lost cause".

"She had almost saved herself from the ruin that her family and friends had thought would be her end," Miss Johnston said. "At one final party her intake of heroin and alcohol caused a heart attack leading to brain damage."

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We must reform Europe, declares Blair

Business leaders saw little to complain about when they watched the big screen version of the Government's policy on the single currency, reports Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday that Britain must become "Europe's reformers" and that the European Union would have to be more flexible to make a single currency work.

In his speech to the Confederation of British Industry, which was transmitted from London to the organisation's conference in Birmingham via a video link, he set out a six-point plan to give Britain "the world's No 1 creative economy".

As delegates watched his image on a giant screen, the Prime Minister gave an enthuz-

astic endorsement of the single currency but urged his European partners to adopt more flexible labour markets to ensure the success of economic and monetary union.

His advice may anger his European colleagues, who have been upset in the past by his attempts to assert his role in the EU.

While warning of the dangers of joining a single currency too early, he emphasised that it was important for Britain that the project worked. He also urged business leaders to prepare as

soon as possible to use the euro from the day of its introduction in 1999.

"If the economic benefits are clear and unambiguous in favour of going in, we want Britain to be part of a successful single currency. And we want business to prepare for that eventuality and make a practical reality of it as only business can."

He argued that to join EMU too early would imply a massive monetary relaxation in Britain, which would risk setting off a short-lived inflationary boom. "That is precisely the economics of boom and bust which this Government was elected to bring to an end. That is why joining this Parliament is unrealistic."

But Britain had made a pledge to its European partners that it would ensure a successful start to the single currency in its EU presidency, which starts in June. "Our role will be constructive and engaged. But we will also work hard to ensure that the single currency is set up on a sound footing. We must become Europe's reformers. Monetary union is a unique and ambitious project. To make it work Europe will need to demonstrate a new adaptability and flexibility."

Mr Blair said he would fight vigorously during Britain's presidency for reform of the EU budget and the common agricultural policy. "I don't want Britain to become constructive to Europe just by giving in to whatever is proposed by any other European country or the Commission."

Earlier he echoed remarks made by Margaret Beckett,

a new politics in Britain. "There is a great project in hand. And I think it will take ten years to complete. It is nothing less than the modernisation of Britain. The Liberal Democrats and new Labour — working with the business community — are natural partners in that project."

Mr Ashdown said he welcomed the Government's support for joining a single currency in principle, but not its decision to delay entry. He said that the Government was likely to be pushed down that track faster than ministers were prepared to admit, and the Liberal Democrats would be one of the forces behind it.

Ashdown calls for cross-party force

PADDY ASHDOWN urged business leaders yesterday to join a cross-party coalition to fight Euroscepticism.

The Liberal Democrat leader used his speech at the CBI conference to call on industrialists to work together with his party and Labour in shaping the future of the EU. "We challenge those in all parties, and business too, who want to see Britain playing its full part in Europe to work together in defeating Euroscepticism and winning the case for Britain's constructive engagement in Europe."

He indicated that the Lib Dems would work even closer with Labour to create

a new politics in Britain. "There is a great project in hand. And I think it will take ten years to complete. It is nothing less than the modernisation of Britain. The Liberal Democrats and new Labour — working with the business community — are natural partners in that project."

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Political image: Tony Blair presenting his plans for "the world's No 1 creative economy" to the CBI conference in Birmingham yesterday

the Trade and Industry Secretary, that some British firms were not up to scratch and had to improve their performance. He said that a report published by the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday showed that while some companies were competing effectively with the world's best, many were not.

The message is clear: we need to redouble our efforts to match the standards set by the best companies in the world. It's a message everyone in the country and industry needs to heed."

But he said that firms could not raise performance unless the Government set a framework of economic policy. "I am an unrepentant long-termist. There aren't quick fixes to get economic success. Politicians who promise them are not telling the truth."

Mr Blair set out six basic principles of a "modern economic policy for Britain", which rested on one key belief: "To succeed today, Britain must be the world's No 1 creative economy. We will win by brains or not at all. We will compete on enterprise and talent or fail."

The partnership I advocate is not some cosy old consensus politics. It is a hard-headed look at what Government and business need to do together to reach that goal."

The first principle was to run a well-managed, tight economic ship, he said, as he defended the Government's decision to allow the Bank of

England to set interest rates. "I know it's hard to have interest-rate rises and consequent pressure on the pound as we choke off inflation that was back in the system. But I believe passionately that we were right. Better to have interest-rate rises now — still at 7.25 per cent — than to go back to the early 90s when they were at 15 per cent for a year."

The other principles included boosting education by ensuring more students were able to go to university; reforming the welfare state to encourage people into jobs; stimulating enterprise and initiative through labour market flexibility; renewing the country's infrastructure and getting the best out of EU membership.

Mr Blair earned a polite reception from the conference delegates, who were bemused by being addressed by a video image, though there was little in the speech with which they disagreed.

Industry fears impact of degree tuition fees

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of tuition fees for higher education could damage the competitiveness of business by discouraging students from taking degree courses, the CBI said yesterday.

The employers' organisation called on the Government to raise the threshold of parental income for the payment of tuition fees from £16,000-£18,000 to £25,000. It fears that setting such a low income level will keep many

would-be students out of education because they would not be able to afford to study.

In a report on government spending, the CBI said: "There is a real risk that numbers entering higher education will fall and this could have a detrimental impact on skill levels and on UK competitiveness."

The confederation, which has called consistently for more young people to go into higher education, said: "Given the surprisingly low rate of growth in government spending on education

... and the potential benefits of education to the wider economy, there is a strong case for increased taxpayer funding here."

The call marks the first time that the organisation has set itself against government plans for tuition fees. Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, said it was important that fees were "kept to a level that does not deter".

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has insisted that fees will not hurt the growth in

higher education, which is planned to accelerate over the next decade. However, early applications for degree places in 1998 show a drop of about 10 per cent on last year.

John Crindall, the CBI's head of human resources, said that people were being disadvantaged twice on education funding: by the removal of grants and by the introduction of tuition fees. The confederation was asking the Government to raise the income threshold "to protect the people that are the most vulnerable".

was the teachers' fault, when they performed well it was because examination standards were falling.

But Mr Woodhead, who has clashed continually with teachers, told the conference: "I accept that morale is a problem but I don't think it is as acute a problem as some teachers and commentators lead us to believe."

He said that he would not tone down his criticisms, despite being accused of helping to worsen morale in schools. Teachers had often claimed that poor performance was someone else's fault.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said later: "I wonder if he is talking to the same teachers as we do. The whole system of management by public humiliation needs to change."

Teachers' claim challenged

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

CLAIMS of poor morale among teachers are being exaggerated, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday.

Delegates to the conference complained that schools were facing a crisis. Colin Glass, chief executive of Watson and Philip, said that staff faced an impossible situation: when children performed badly it

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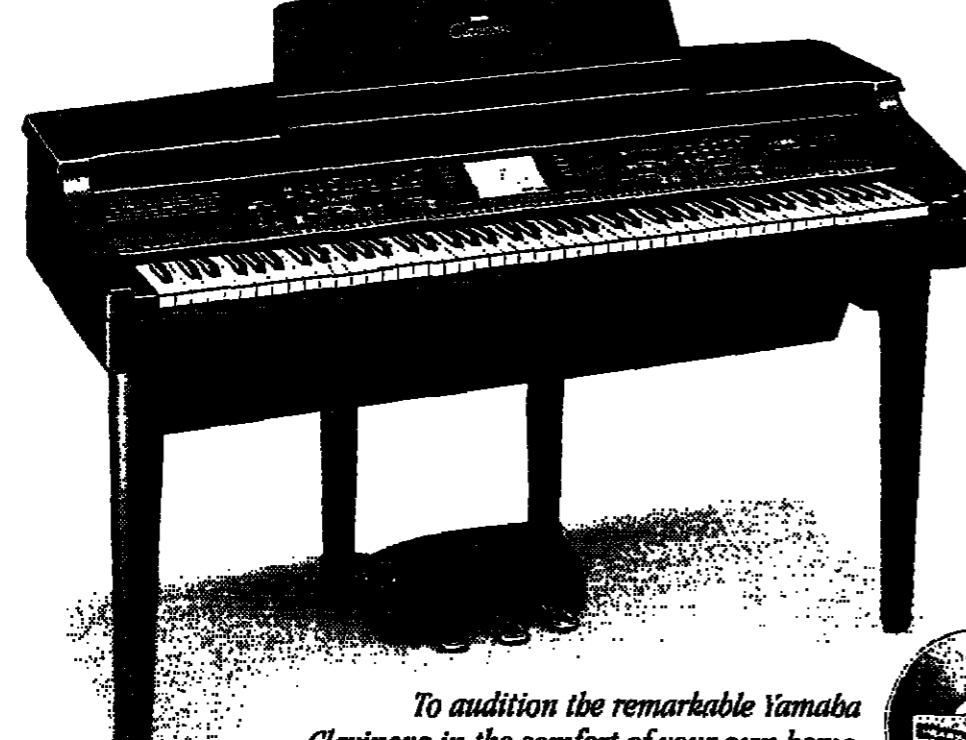


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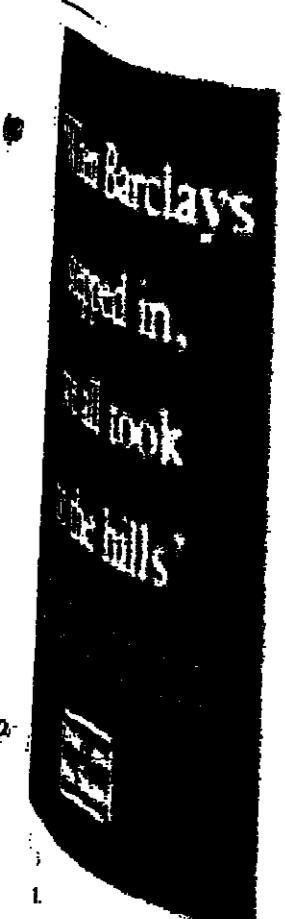
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Saddam accused of anti-Stealth deal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration last night launched an investigation into reports that Iraq planned to buy five electronic warfare radar systems from Eastern Europe that would give President Saddam Hussein the capability of detecting and shooting down American Stealth bombers.

Revelations of the deal came as Baghdad continued to defy United Nations resolutions by barring weapons inspection teams from facilities outside the capital and President Clinton, speaking at Arlington cemetery on Veterans Day, reiterated his demand that the international community impose its will on Saddam.

"They [UN inspectors] are doing what they must do and they must get back to work. And the international community must demand that," Mr Clinton said.

Increasing American pressure on Iraq to comply with UN resolutions, William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, said he and General

Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had decided to cancel visits to Asia to be on hand in case of "any kind of contingency".

Asked if UN approval would be needed to launch a military strike against Saddam, Mr Cohen said: "I think there is inherent authority under existing UN authority to carry out such strikes, should it be necessary." Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, telephoned her counterparts among members of the Security Council, including Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and

an American official said last

night that the report was being taken seriously and an investigation was under way.

CIA officials were said to have identified General Peter Bartalov, a retired Bulgarian officer and ambassador to Iraq in the early 1990s, as the prime mover behind the deal, which has been under negotiation since July.

General Bartalov, president of Inchem-SI Ltd, an arms trading company registered with the Czech Government, has maintained strong links with many of Iraq's military leaders, including General Amar Rashid, head of the Iraqi military-industrial complex.

Although all weapons sales to Saddam's regime are banned under a UN embargo imposed at the end of the Gulf War, the radar deal was expected to circumvent sanctions by identifying the end user as a country other than Iraq.

Simon Jenkins, page 22

Toxin work suspected

NEW YORK: UN inspectors have uncovered evidence that Iraq may be continuing work on the lethal toxin Ricin, once used to kill a Bulgarian dissident on Waterloo Bridge (James Bone writes). According to UN sources, scientific papers concerning

Ricin were discovered by inspectors during a raid in April on the university office of a scientist with links to Iraq's biological weapons centre at Al-Hakam. Baghdad claimed the papers related to its experimentation with Ricin before the Gulf War.

Americans fail to win UN consensus on military action

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States yesterday abandoned their effort to get a clear threat of military action against Iraq from the United Nations Security Council.

Facing opposition from Russia, France and China they dropped the issuing of a warning of "serious consequences" from a draft resolution they plan to table for a vote as early as today. The resolution will still impose a travel ban on senior Iraqi officials and condemn Baghdad's decision to bar Americans from working as UN weapons inspectors.

British diplomats emphasised that their objective was to obtain unanimous denunciation of Iraq by the Security Council, increasingly divided on how to ensure Iraqi co-operation with the UN Special Commission charged with eliminating its weapons of mass destruction.

Britain had originally wanted the resolution to declare Iraq in "material breach" of its obligations under the Gulf War peace deal — a legal formula giving clear authority for a resumption of military action.

Russia spoke out adamantly against a military strike on Iraq yesterday after a Beijing summit meeting between President Yeltsin and President Jiang Zemin of China. A Russian spokesman said: "We want to express our decisive opposition to using the UN Security Council as a cover for military strikes against Baghdad." He added: "That is Russia's position. As far as I know, China shares it."

Egypt, another Security Council member, also voiced opposition. President Mubarak told *al-Ahram* newspaper that "the principle of the use of force is not appropriate".

'When Barclays stepped in, we all took to the hills'

Scillicote High School, Chelmsford, on their anti-bullying hills and dales access scheme

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Baghdad shrugs off sanctions threats

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU

IRAQ yesterday brushed aside threats of increased sanctions or American military strikes and threatened to block United Nations attempts to monitor its arms programmes unless its own demands were met.

An influential newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's elder son, Uday, said Iraq wanted written guarantees that inspection teams would be neutral and a timetable for lifting sanctions.

"If not, it will be our right to close the file on co-operation ... and abandon any illusion of a solution through the UN because it is no more than an agency of the US State Department," *Babel* said.

Such action would step up the confrontation with the UN, which is concerned that Baghdad is exploiting the stand-off to hide equipment related to weapons of mass destruction. There have been no weapons inspections for nine days because of Iraq's ban on Americans taking part.

Biblical scholar paints new picture of an upwardly mobile Jesus



Jesus "middle-class"

A Jesuit lecturer says that Christ's life was not so humble, Richard Owen writes

list and the well-to-do life of the rich".

Although Jesus's birth in a stable at Bethlehem suggested humble origins, the Holy Family were not poor. He agreed with the Roman Catholic historian, Giovanni Magnani, who recently caused a stir within the Vatican by suggesting that Jesus was "not a simple carpenter" but "more like a successful builder, a polyglot, and altogether a solid and cultured citizen of Galilee".

"We are not talking here about a backward rural milieu," Father

In St Mark's Gospel, Jesus meets "a man of great wealth", who says he has kept all the Commandments, and asks what else he must do to win eternal life. Jesus tells him to "Go, sell everything you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Mark x, 21). He then makes his celebrated observation to the disciples that "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God" (Mark x, 25).

But Father Vanni said although Jesus made a point of associating with the poor, the despised and the outcast, he was not averse to accepting dinner invitations from "the rich and the well off".

He said the household of Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany — where Mary anoints Jesus's feet with costly oil and perfume, to the irritation of Judas Iscariot — was clearly middle-class.

The disciples recruited by Galilee, such as St Peter, were not simple fishermen but men who ran a serious fishing business, Father Vanni said. Jesus "did not appropriate the riches of all his followers".

He adhered to ascetic spiritual exercises, "but the Gospel message does not emphasise poverty in the radical manner of John the Baptist". He said St Luke's reference to the fact that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men" (Luke ii, 52) showed he was "not a hermit, but an open and amiable young man".

Father Vanni said Jesus probably attended performances in Greek at the theatre of Selefis, a town of about 30,000 people, which was about four miles from Nazareth, and which was recently excavated. He said Jesus sometimes used theatrical images including his vivid description in St Matthew's Gospel of the "hypocrites who give to the needy" "with a flourish of trumpets" and pray "where everyone can see them" (Matthew vi, 2 and 5), whereas Christians should "go into a room by themselves shut the door and pray to their Father who is unseen" (Matthew vi, 6).

£6bn tax deficit threatens Bonn target for EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY was yesterday struggling to keep on target for European economic and monetary union after a £6 billion shortfall in tax revenues.

Although the Government quickly drew up a set of proposals to plug the gap, a cloud now hangs over Bonn's ability to meet precisely the Maastricht goal of keeping the public deficit down to 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

Germans will have to reckon with yet more belt-tightening. Public spending has been capped to prevent the traditional year-end sprint to dispose of the rest of the annual budget in December. One newspaper complained: "We have already been squeezed to the limit, police patrols are having their petrol rationed ... there is nothing left to cut."

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, hopes that by rescheduling east German debts and by an interest-rate swap between government and banks, he can make up the central government budget without resorting to new borrowing. Some of the revenues from the privatisation of Telekom will also be used to close the gap.

He said that Germany would meet the euro targets for 1997 and 1998. But economists said Germany would have problems keeping the deficit down to 3 per cent of GDP and could well end up with 3.1 per cent. This would probably not be fatal for monetary union but would be a serious embarrassment for Bonn, weakening its ability to exclude from EMU members with lax fiscal discipline.

Speaking on BBC television's *Business Breakfast*, Adair Turner — director-general of the Chamber of British Industry — said of the Germans, "it is still very important that they, like everyone else, meet the criteria, so if they are significantly outside it we would certainly see that as an argument for delaying the whole project, not just for us but for the others".

Stronger than expected growth and some statistical adjustments — such as the exclusion of hospital debt — may yet ensure that Germany scrapes under the euro fence. The tax shortfall, which is the result of both central and local government budgeting, does suggest, however, that there is something fundamentally

amiss with Germany's public finances. Tax revenues, according to the latest calculations, will drop even further next year.

Seen over a medium-term perspective, it is plain that there has been quite serious budgetary mismanagement. Two years ago the Government calculated that total tax revenues for 1997 would be around £31 billion. Yesterday's estimate for this year was close to £274 billion.

The shortfall is partly caused by stubbornly high unemployment, since the 4.4 million jobless pay no taxes. But the overall catchment area of taxpayers has been shrinking: companies have been given tax concessions (to improve Germany's international competitiveness) and top-rate taxpayers are making full use of the many legal loopholes to reduce their payments. Some of these loopholes cannot easily be closed without creating further unemployment.

The tax crisis highlights the failure of the Government and Opposition to reach a comprehensive tax reform that would unlock revenue but keep Germany competitive.



Hillary Clinton at a welcoming ceremony in Alma Ata after arriving in Kazakhstan yesterday for a tour of the former Soviet Union. The visit aims to promote human rights, religious tolerance and economic development

European job ruling favours women

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

STATES are entitled to give preference to the recruitment and promotion of women over men in their public services, the European court of Justice ruled yesterday.

In a decision that delighted the Brussels Commission and women's right groups, the court backed away from an earlier ruling that appeared to outlaw positive discrimination in the name of equal opportunities. National laws giving priority to women in public-sector promotions do not conflict with EU law provided male candidates are not excluded from consideration, the judges ruled. Fixing quotas on female recruitment was, however, unlawful.

The finding resulted from the case of a teacher in North Rhine-Westphalia who complained that a woman had been appointed to a post for which he was equally qualified on the ground that there were more men than women in similar posts.

Padraig Flynn, EU Commissioner for Social Affairs, welcomed the fact that the judges had recognised the need to counter deep-rooted prejudices and stereotypes.

"The mere fact that male and female candidates are equally qualified does not mean that they have the same chances," the judge said.

Final journey for remains of Tsar's family

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A SPECIAL train will set out from Moscow in the next few days and travel 1,000 miles east over the Ural mountains to Yekaterinburg to collect the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his family from the city where they were killed by Bolsheviks in July 1918.

A spokesman for the General Prosecu-

tor said yesterday that a carriage, accompanied by a detachment of riot police, had been due to leave Moscow last night, but had been held up for technical reasons. He said the operation to move the remains would begin within a week. President Yeltsin ordered the remains — consisting of skulls, teeth and bones, all severely damaged by acid and fire — to be brought to Moscow last week, overriding objections from Eduard Rossel, the Governor of Sverdlovsk province, who has been campaigning for their final burial in the city where they died. When in Moscow they will be given a final examination by experts, including specialists from Britain and the United States, to remove any remaining doubts about their authenticity. The remains will then be returned to Yekaterinburg pending a final decision by a commission on their permanent resting place.

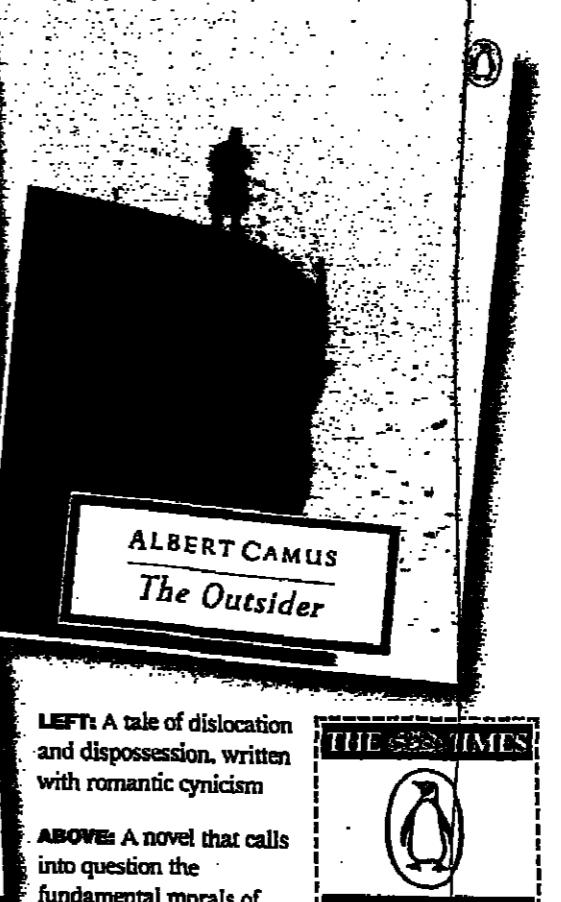
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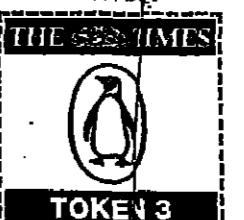
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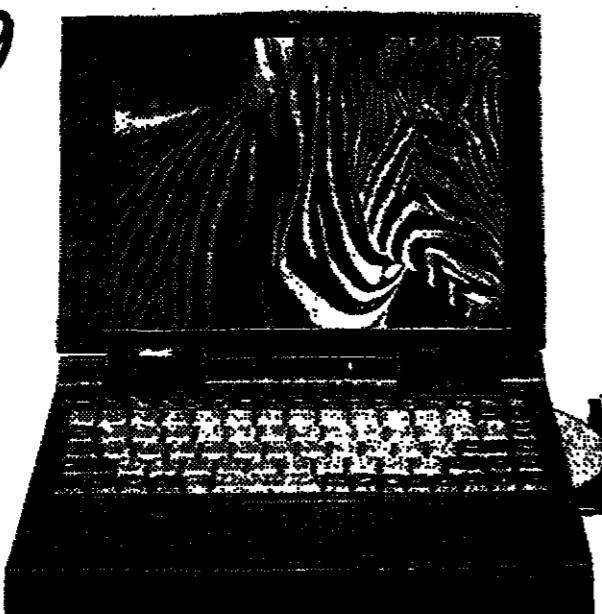


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Ref 101

CHANGING TIMES

Couple's \$2m art treasures go for \$206m



Victor and Sally Ganz, who focused their buying on high-quality work by a few blue-chip artists

James Bone on a New York couple who built up a great art collection on Saturday shopping expeditions

PERHAPS the world's greatest private collection of modern art, acquired for less than \$2 million (£1.2 million) by a New York couple who strolled the galleries on Saturday afternoons, has sold at auction for a record \$206 million.

Victor and Sally Ganz began their now legendary 115-piece collection with the purchase of Picasso's *Le Rêve* (*The Dream*) in 1941 for \$7,000.

In the sale of their estate at Christie's on Monday, Picasso's portrait of his teenage mistress, Marie-Thérèse Walter, sleeping in an armchair, fetched \$48 million.

An intensely private couple, the Ganzes hung their collection in simple frames on the walls of their town house in Gracie Square, sometimes obscuring them with lamps or flower vases. Mr Ganz, who died in 1987, ran his family's costume jewellery business and his wife, who died in January, devoted herself to charitable causes.

Though not particularly rich by the standards of today's tycoons, they amassed one of the finest private collections of modern art by focusing their buying on high-quality work by a few blue-chip artists. The couple became the largest private owners of Picassos in America and acquired major works by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschen-



Christopher Burge, of Christie's, starts the bidding for Picasso's *Le Rêve* bought for \$7,000 in 1941 and, below, *Woman in an Armchair* which fetched \$48 million

enberg, Frank Stella and Eva Hesse, the German-born minimalist sculptor.

Tony Ganz, their son, said his father 'had taught himself to find the toughest picture, often a picture that he did not understand initially and was not yet in love with. And pretty much without fail, those were the pictures that turned out to be the great ones'.

Drawn by their reputation for connoisseurship, an estimated 25,000 people visited Christie's in the two weeks before the sale to view the Ganzes' collection.

On Monday, the auction house's four salerooms were crammed with 2,000 people, more than twice the normal attendance. Sixty telephones, double the usual number, were set up to accept bids and every private office was rigged with closed-circuit television for buyers seeking to watch in privacy. Many of the world's best-known collectors and dealers were in the crowd.

With the art market surging along with the soaring stock market, the sale easily exceeded its estimate of \$125 million, with the Picassos alone accounting for \$164 million. The previous record for the collection of a single private owner was the \$123.4 million fetched in 1989 by Impressionist and modern art belonging to John Dorrance, the Campbell's Soup heir.

day they lay in wait at a cafe until they saw Picasso enter the store.

They followed him inside and started a conversation by telling him how they had bought *Le Rêve*. The \$48.2 million paid by an anonymous buyer for the painting at Christie's was the second-highest auction price for a Picasso, lagging only behind

Delacroix, the series was in fact a sneaking homage to that lover of the courtesan or odalisque, Matisse, who had died just weeks earlier.

Mr Ganz realised that he might have spent too much for the series, and sold all but five works to dealers and museums for \$138,000. Four of the five remaining canvases were sold at Christie's: the most

important, version *O*, to Libby Howe, the London dealer, for \$31.9 million.

The only artist Mr Ganz can claim to have actually discovered was the sculptor Eva Hesse, who died of brain cancer in 1970 at the age of 34.

The Ganzes took the biggest financial risk of their collecting career when they paid \$212,500 for the 15 works in Picasso's series, *Women of Algiers*, painted in 1954 and 1955. Although taking after

important, version *O*, to Libby Howe, the London dealer, for \$31.9 million.

The only artist Mr Ganz can claim to have actually discovered was the sculptor Eva Hesse, who died of brain cancer in 1970 at the age of 34.

The Ganzes were making their customary round of the New York galleries one Saturday in November 1968 when Mrs Ganz got tired feet and returned home after viewing a Francis Bacon show. Her husband went on to view Hesse's first show at the Fischbach Gallery and was entranced by her strange constructions of sheet metal, staples and rubber tubing. He ended up buying three of her works.

Hesse's *Unfinished, Untitled or Not Yet*, a 1966 sculpture of polyethylene, sand, paper and cotton string, fetched a record price at Christie's of \$2.2 million. *Vinulum I* (1969) became the artist's second most expensive work when it sold for \$1.2 million.

The only painting that did not sell was Reischenberg's *Rigger* (1961) which failed to reach its estimate with a top



STAN HONDA/AP

bid of \$2.4 million. "It was a remarkable evening," Christopher Burge, Christie's chairman, said. "What a tribute it was to Victor and Sally Ganz, to their extraordinary taste and extraordinary judgment."

As the buyers dispersed, the talk of the many in the art world was of Peter Max, the pop artist whose psychedelic work made its way onto T-shirts and coffee mugs in the 1960s. At a court hearing on Monday, Max pleaded guilty to avoiding taxes on more than \$1 million in art sales by asking for cash payments or bartering his work for real estate. Max, 60, faces a minimum four months in jail.

□ Tax blow: London's art and antiques trade, the second largest in the world after New York, has been hit by a 2.5 per cent value-added tax imposed by the European Union.

A report commissioned by the British Art Market Federation industry showed that artworks imports from outside the EU have fallen 40 per cent since 1994. The EU is considering doubling the tax in 1999.

Fears of Cuban nuclear leak ridiculed

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

A PENTAGON plan to build a \$3 million (£1.9 million) radiation detection facility in Florida to guard against nuclear leaks from Cuba is being ridiculed by experts.

Critics say the perceived danger — and the Pentagon's response — is the result of scaremongering by ill-informed Cuban-

American politicians blinded by ideological opposition to the island's Communist leadership. "There's no threat whatsoever from the Cuban nuclear programme," said Jonathan Benjamin Alvarado, an expert on Cuba's nuclear industry at the University of Georgia. He described the early-warning facility as a "colossal waste of time and money".

In 1985 Cuba began work on the

Juragua nuclear power plant, designed to house two Russian nuclear reactors. Located only 180 miles from the Florida Keys, its apparently flawed construction aroused widespread fears in America. Building was suspended in 1992 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but Cuba now wants to complete the project. Cuban exiles say the Juragua plant could cause another Chernobyl-like accident.

Brazilian gunmen grab cash on plane

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ARMED robbers hijacked a twin-engined aircraft used to ferry banks' cash between remote northeastern towns in Brazil yesterday, escaping with \$2 million (£1.2 million) after foiling airport guards.

The hooded gunmen drove a cross-country vehicle through a barbed-wire fence and onto the landing strip as the plane arrived at the small strip in Jacobina, a town producing sugarcane.

People on the airport terrace saw 12 robbers wielding machineguns fire into the air to force the plane to stop. The gang then boarded, made the pilot and five-man crew lie on the runway, and loaded the cash into their vehicle.

Security guards trying to stop the robbers found their weapons no match for the machineguns, two guards being seriously hurt in an exchange of fire.

The Aerostar aircraft had been on its weekly round to move cash between rural branches of the Banco do Brasil in Bahia state. It had set off from Salvador city and planned stopovers in Jacobina and Ilheus.

Unusually police were not on hand to provide an armed escort. The manager of the bank's Salvador branch admitted failing to alert the local force, but gave no reason.

Police believe the robbers may have been the same gang who last week stole \$4 million (£2.4 million) from a plane at Congonhas airport in São Paulo, the financial capital.

New Desktop printer range from Oki

Do these ads demean men?

Women are used to being portrayed as sex objects in advertisements. But now it is the turn of men. And they don't like it at all. Bill Frost reports

Typically for decades by the advertising industry, women have long harboured a legitimate grievance against those who present them as either bimbos or housewives.

This advertisement degrades women" stickers pasted over sexist hoardings and mountains of mail received by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) since the late Sixties have done little or nothing to alter the prevailing culture. The ASA has kept no tally of complaints, but letters highlighting the innate sexism in the industry regularly make up the bulk of the postbag.

But times are changing. Men are now up for exploitation in national advertising campaigns. Storylines featuring the ritual

humiliation of man at the hands of women are becoming commonplace in campaigns aimed at selling everything from cars to clothes. Unsurprisingly, few males relish the role and "girl power" is being exploited by the industry to demean men, the ASA said yesterday.

Sales figures for products marketed on the male degradation ticket indicate that the strategy is working – so much so that women will favour the product advertised in such a way over others promoted on more traditional lines.

Lee, the jeans manufacturer, has mounted one of the most provocative campaigns this year, with nationwide hoardings showing a naked man pinned to the ground by a jeans' clad female leg terminating in a stiletto heel. The

Tobe Aleksander, the organisation's vice-president, says:

Kay Truelove, of the Grey agency, one of the copywriters responsible for the Lee campaign, says: "I worked with a male colleague on this campaign for a male client who saw that the ad had been done in good humour."

But there is a realisation behind this trend that women's roles have changed. We get married later, we achieve more at work and generally have more opportunities. There is a lot of disposable income at stake here."

Unsurprisingly, Lee is unrepentant, too. "The ad is a strong image with a self-evident sense of humour," a spokesman said. "Put the boot in" refers to the fact that the ad is for jeans designed to be worn with boots."



Ads from the Lee, Wallis and Impulse campaigns, showing men in humiliating situations. The Advertising Standards Authority says it has received large numbers of complaints about them



The Wallis chain, whose "Dress to Kill" campaign also features a Tube train guard about to be decapitated as he stands at a blonde model walking down the platform, described critics as "over-sensitive". Such images were never to be taken literally. Fiona Davis, the company's marketing director, said: "We researched them very carefully

and our target market sees them as humorous. The objective is to stand out, not to shock – but when anything is distinctive one expects it to be a little controversial."

Nissan, the carmaker, also courted controversy with its campaign to boost sales of the Micra. A poster showed a half-naked man doubled up in pain with his hands over his geni-

tales. The caption reads: "Ask before you borrow it."

Aimed at young women, who make up 70 per cent of the car's buyers, the posters have been described in complaints to the ASA as offensive, violent and sexist. Not so, says Nissan and its ad agency TBWA Simons Palmer. "People are sophisticated enough to realise that this is advertising hyper-

bole. Even men we researched it with saw the wit and humour of its comments on the nature of relationships," Philip Holliday, group account director, says.

As images of passive or humiliated males proliferate, politicians are being drawn into the controversy. A TV commercial promoting the perfume, Impulse, which showed an artist's model becoming aroused under the amused gaze of a woman student, drew sackloads of criticism here but passed without comment abroad, where a far more explicit cut was shown. Many men found the ad distasteful even though the model's arousal was carefully disguised. Their distress was caused by his humiliation and embarrassment in front of a

class of female art students.

Dr Adrian Rogers, chairman of the Conservative Family Campaign, saw nothing humorous in the commercial. "Ads such as this are in very bad taste and lead to cultural degeneration," he said.

Nicholas Winterbottom, Tory MP for Macclesfield, was horrified, too. "Young children are going to see this and they will be shocked. The fact that they [the perfume makers] have used a naked model, and worse, that it is a male model and he is getting an erection, tells us much about the product. I find it very smutty."

But Eliza Gibbs, the maker of Impulse, defended the £6.5 million campaign. A spokes-

woman said: "Women's attitudes have changed over the past 20 years: they are not naive any more."

But the more candid advertising insiders admit that the phenomenon is not so much a symptom of female liberation, more the latest shock gambit adopted by an industry which thrives on attention.

Jeff Sutsons is the copywriter responsible for last year's notorious campaign to sell men's underwear with the copyline The Loin King. The ads, showing well endowed young men in their smalls, were, in his terms, a triumph.

"Sure, it was shock tactics, but the ads were meant to be fun," he says. "The first rule in this business is the same as the last – 'get yourself noticed, no matter what it takes'."

Two crimes, only one line to take

A WOMAN in Louise Woodward's home town of Elton, Cheshire, was beaten up for refusing to wear a yellow ribbon. All along, there has been only one permissible line to take. Louise is innocent, and to be unconvinced of that is to be guilty of a vicious crime oneself. Equally, there is only one line on the two boys who killed James Bulger: they are evil, and anyone who suggests otherwise is no less evil.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is to set new jail terms for these children, overturning the minimum sentence of 15 years imposed by his predecessor. He has given no sign that he will treat them with any less severity – once the new period has been set, he will review the sentence at the

halfway stage to consider whether it should be altered. All the same, he is denounced left, right and centre as an apologist for child murderers. For Louise we demanded clemency; for the boys who killed James Bulger we demand no mercy.

In both cases there is one

reality: a child's death. And while we instinctively shrink

more from the brutal killing of a child by his peers than at the

hands of an incompetent car-

er, there is something disconcerting about this. Both cases are upsetting. Reading closely

the details of the injuries

inflicted on eight-month-old

Matthew makes one realise

that it cannot be swept away

as an unfortunate rough han-

dling. The full picture disturbs

in the same way as did that

fuzzy security camera video of

James being led away by his

killers who would later kill him.

I have no desire to go in for

the sort of distortion by senti-

mentality that fogged our de-

ception of the Woodward trial,

but it hardly redeems

the sanctification of the accused in

the one case to go in for rabid

denunciation in the other.

Can we think that those (then)

10-year-old boys injured

James with intent to kill, in the

full knowledge of what that

would mean? We might feel

there was malicious intent;

this was a vicious act, ten-

year-olds know what they are

doing. But this does not mean

Nigella Lawson



Sex appeal and Barbie

YOU might think it strange that Mattel, the maker of Barbie, is suing the Danish pop group Aqua for sexualising the doll in their song *Barbie Girl*. As everyone knows, the song about Barbie is her disproportionately large (and pointy) bosom, her curvy shape and pouting face. She has the sort of sex appeal that little girls cannot resist – and I speak as one who has a shrine to Barbie (complete with wallpaper and lampshade) in the house and *Barbie Girl* on a continual loop in the cassette player. But Mattel is right in one respect: the other striking thing about Barbie is that – painted-on, come-hither gaze and breasts notwithstanding – she is about as unsexual as a doll can get, which may explain why she is such a temptation to small girls and gay men.

A MESSAGE
EVERYONE
OBSERVED
IN TWO MINUT
SILENCE

Stunted, at least intellectually

I HOLD no particular brief against Demi Moore, but the mere idea of having to sit through her latest film, *GI Jane*, would not fill me with joy. Girl joins army, beats the big boys at their own game – please, leave me alone to languish on my chaise longue rather than have to witness that.

And it's not just the fiction contained

within the film that fails to interest me

it is the meat of the publicity about the film. Demi Moore did all those one-armed press-ups herself, for real, no stunt people, so what?

What is the appeal of forcing oneself to test one's physical endurance? It's a game for dimwits, a sign of our anti-intellectual age. This is no sedentary exercise: men who drone on about their fitness, gym routine and physical prowess are just as ridiculous.

After all, I don't imagine the late Isolde Berlin ever felt it necessary to impress everyone with the length of time he spent on the exercise bike.

they must be treated like hardened criminals. A child cannot be held responsible for his actions in the way that an adult can – and must be punished differently.

We have now to look at what we can do for these children. We cannot bring back James Bulger, but it does not displease his death to try to make his killers understand what they have done and to recover from it. I don't say only leniency is desirable – retribution is a necessary part of sentencing – but the bloodlust displayed by a public anxious to exonerate in one instance and to condemn in another can play no part in any respectable decision.

It's almost too late to learn Yiddish

THERE is nothing more at the whim of market forces than language. Assemble

as many Académies Françaises or their equivalents as you like, call all the committees possible to foster the speaking of Welsh or Breton, and it will make no difference. People will speak the language that serves them best.

Which makes it all the more sad to

hear that Yiddish is dying out as its

elderly speakers pass away and young

Jews, assimilated into their new coun-

tries, find they have no need to speak it. This month saw the last edition of the Israeli Yiddish monthly *Israel Stimme*, and although the New York *Forward* is still going, its Yiddish edition makes up only a quarter of the sales.

As I read of the language's fading, I resolved again to learn it as a German speaker, how difficult can it be to learn that language's croak? But as they say: "Kimm, ich nich' hant, kimm morgan." Whatever that means.

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Harriet Harman with husband Jack Dromey, of the TGWU



David Mills and his wife, Tessa Jowell (right). His former association with Formula One led to cries of conflict of interest



Tony Blair and Cherie Booth: she may face sacrifices

Marriage and the dispatch box

Solid, supportive and always in the wrong. Mary Ann Sieghart on the trials of political union

to wade through her red boxes of ministerial work before the rest of the household wakes up. And Mr Mills is also a very active father: "I've always done a lot for the children and happily so." As a senior partner in a firm of solicitors, he can organise his life to suit the family, taking time off during half-terms and holidays.

But even Cabinet ministers,

if they are women, are usually

expected to be in charge of the

home. They may be able to

afford to pay someone else to

do the housework, but running

a household and a family

still requires command of

endless domestic minutiae.

And while most employers

these days are reasonably

to Harriet Harman. He is, in general, very supportive of her. But, he said: "I see what women have had to put up with for hundreds of years, being defined through the person to whom they're married." I asked him then to imagine Harriet as a Cabinet minister. Would he be the one to race home if a child were sick? No, he could not countenance that.

With increasing numbers of two-career parents in the House of Commons, these tensions will undoubtedly build. It is not just that there are more women MPs; the men, too, are more likely to have working wives.

And some wives who have stellar careers are now taking a dim view of being expected to give them up for their husbands' jobs. Cherie Booth has blazed a trail — continuing at the Bar, acting both on behalf of and against the Crown,

understanding. With hindsight, it might have been more sensible had Frank Dobson exempted Ms Jowell from taking decisions on Formula One, even though her husband had extricated himself from Benetton.

But conflicts of priorities are a different matter. Can politics really justify its unyielding insistence on disrupting family life? Its hours and practices were designed for workaholic men with wives at home. No wonder so many talented people these days resist the lure of Westminster.

Until the world of politics recognises that MPs are human beings, too, with partners who have lives of their own and children who need to see their parents, it will attract only those who have either superhuman sleeping patterns or unusually self-sacrificing spouses. And both, alas, are all too rare.

A MESSAGE TO EVERYONE WHO OBSERVED THE TWO MINUTE SILENCE



THANK YOU FOR PAUSING TO REMEMBER YESTERDAY.

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REMEMBRANCE CAN BUILD FOR A BETTER FUTURE AS WELL AS HEAL THE WOUNDS OF THE PAST.



Of churches and Coronation Street

The footprints of Christianity can still be found all over modern Britain, says Libby Purves

IN AN age of self-conscious newness, it is good to be perverse. Just as the Government gets into its spooky rebranding of Britain as a young country, the serendipitous miracle of Radio 4's scheduling means that for the next six Wednesday evenings I turn up to lob an unsanitised bucketful of history over it: the kind that you can never quite get rid of.

Mysterious Ways, starting tonight (Radio 4, 7.20pm) is a genuine oddity. Halfway between history and whimsy, unconnected with the religious department, it traces the footprints left on secular Britain by 1,000 years of Christianity.

Not just physical footprints: 28,487 parish churches and a pride of cathedrals are the least of it. The team dug out eminences and mavericks, historians and hooligans, two cardinals, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Tony Benn.

We unravelled legacies beyond our wildest hopes: weird, unexpected strands of continuity over ten centuries emerged in politics, law, arts, science, education, sex, literature, music.

We found Bishop Odo killing with a blunt mace in the 11th century because bishops may not shed blood, and Bishop Winnington Ingram in 1915 urging soldiers to kill good Germans as well as bad. We drew direct lines from medieval church carvings to Vera Duckworth of *Coronation Street*, from Charles Wesley to Britpop. We

acknowledged the Christian gift to sanitation, literacy, station architecture, P.D. James and P.G. Wodehouse, and the harm Christianity sometimes did to science, social justice and sexuality. We saw it operate here as social cement, there as social gelignite. I decided that the British disease of romantic nostalgia, all the way to John Major's bicycling old maids, can be laid at the door of the Reformation: when landscape, loyalties and rituals were rudely kicked to pieces, and the nation never got over it.

We reviewed a host of clergymen: bone idle and corrupt, holy and visionary, plotters and knaves, and saints and doughty pragmatists such as the Rev Charles Kingsley, who rode the janes with stone bottles of antiseptic mouthwash on his saddle, forcing parishioners to gargle.

FINALLY, just as we had carved the vast, unwieldy programmes into shape, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, proved three of our points before our very eyes.

First, that pre-Reformation instincts for devotion never actually went away; secondly, that huge emotions still require huge cathedrals; and thirdly, that the things we do in them — down to thumping a rock piano and loudly applauding an angry earl — are always up for change. We saw how the power of the past can surge back any time and knock the present off its feet.

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WHAT ELSE?

On the fast track to depravity

Simon Barnes finds serious flaws in Formula One racing

How many forms of depravity can you name, in the sport of Formula One motor-racing? I'll tell you some of those that I know, some I suspect — and those I miss you'll surely pardon.

There are plenty of them. In fact, looking at Formula One today, we have a bravura display of sleight of hand. More than that, a glorious bullet supper of money corrupting, and big money corrupting absolutely. Help yourself, and don't hold back, because there's plenty more where that lot came from.

To start with, we have straightforward cheating. This occurred when Michael Schumacher attempted to drive Jacques Villeneuve off the track, in order to win the world championship for himself. In some ways, this is the most venial of all the sins presented to us on the offside table. True, the manoeuvre may not have been lethal or premeditated — and killing your opponent is not acceptable even in Formula One — but it was dangerous and a straightforward case of breaking the rules: and you get that in every sport, at every level.

The complication arises when we recall that Schumacher's 1997 case was frighteningly similar to what happened in 1994, when many people believe that Schumacher drove Damon Hill off the track and won the world championship — and got away with it. The message is clear: if there are no official complaints, sporting administration will sit on its hands and do nothing. Not surprisingly it will be seen as weak and expedient.

The next dish of depravity is less dangerous physically, but goes to the heart of the sport and is far more destructive of it. This is the collusion between racing teams to sideline a challenger or work together against a rival Formula One team. There are those who suspect the McLaren and the Williams teams of ganging up against Ferrari and would cite what looked like the After-You-Claude finish of the same race. While Villeneuve may not be the kind of driver to let someone else win, the evidence of the Williams tapes needs some explaining. Whatever the case there are countless other examples of holding back or boxing in for reasons best known to those who manage the racing teams themselves.

It is the sort of thing that goes on all the time in Formula One; at least, that is the way the gossip goes. A Formula One insider must always strive to be more conspirator than thou. The intriguing thing, this time, is that we have the tapes which have provoked what should be some probing questions.

And that, inevitably, has set the conspiracy theorists theorising harder than ever. Who gave the tapes to *The Times*? And why? Who were they intending to discredit? Well, we know who they succeeded in discrediting: absolutely everybody, themselves included. The entire sport: nothing less.

Then comes the depravity of judgment, in yesterday's ab-

surd almost non-punishing sentence on Schumacher. The sport fought shy of a ban: their man will be on telly for the first race next season. That is what counts. A more self-serving judgment could hardly be imagined.

However, the *pièce de résistance* at this buffet of nonsense is the Labour Party which, filled with all the new-broom enthusiasm of the freshly appointed soccer boss, promised to outlaw tobacco sponsorship of sport.

But it made an exception for Formula One. This is rather like banning prostitutes, but making an exception for female ones. Alas, it was then revealed that the Labour Party had been given a small pre-election gift — by their own admission — as much as £1 million — by, er, Bernie Ecclestone, of Formula One.

It is hard to say what is more unpleasant. Is it the fact, brought into new and sharper focus by the latest revelations, that Formula One motor racing is prepared to take money from those wanting to persuade people to consume an addictive and lethal drug that is also dangerous to innocent bystanders? Or is it that governments should be beyond reproach, yet in this case seem to have made an exception to the rule because it had received large dollops of cash from the very organisation it was about to damage with a full-scale advertising ban?

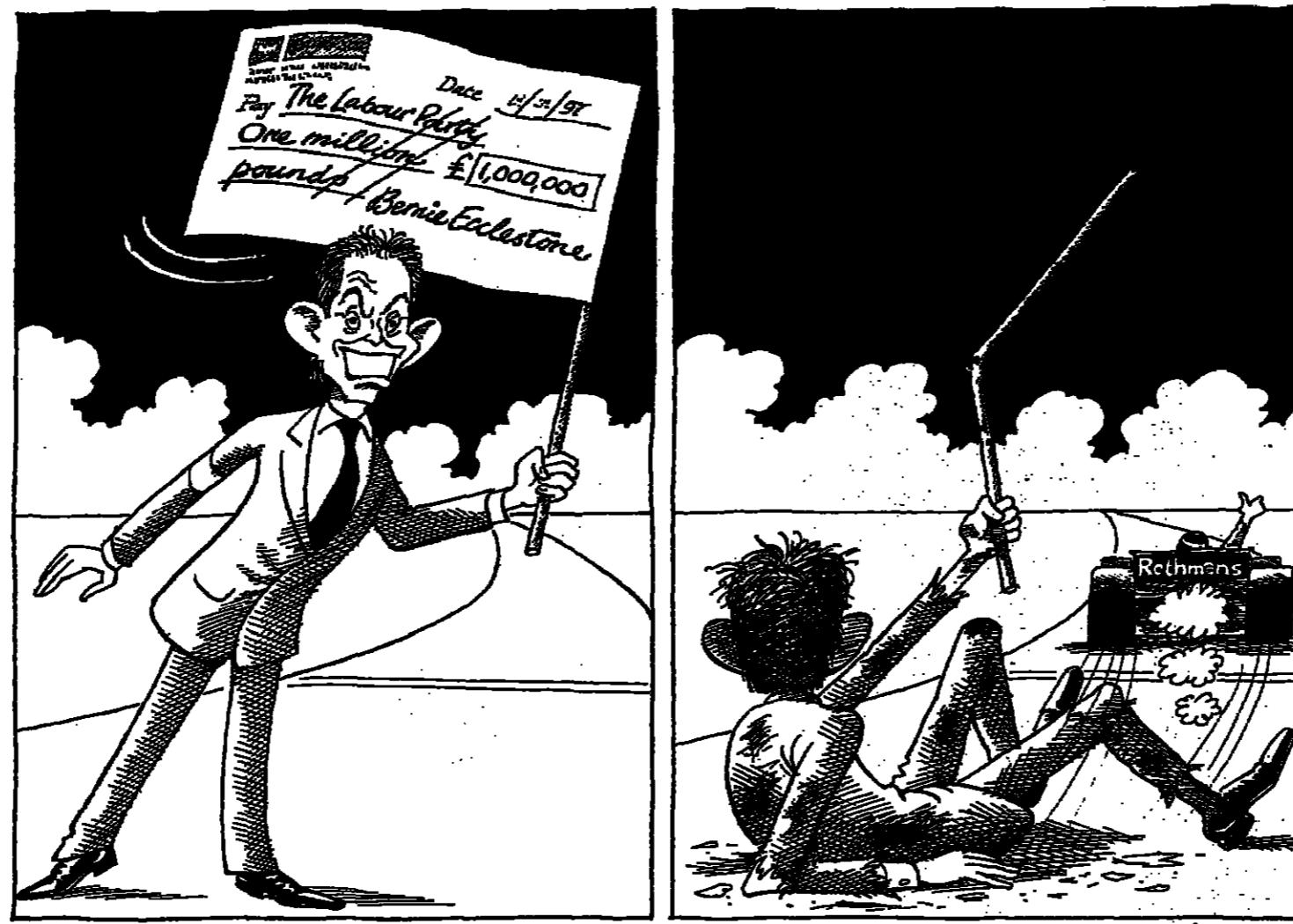
I wonder how many children actually take up smoking because of the drug's almost symbiotic association with the glamour of Formula One? Quite a lot, I imagine — why else would the tobacco industry bother? I am reminded, as last week, of the great Tom Lehrer, and this time of his song *The Old Dope Padder*. "He gives the kids free samples! Because he knows full well! That today's young innocent faces/Will be tomorrow's... clients!"

Many of these dishes of nonsense or depravity are based on one of the curious and little-acknowledged facts of Formula One. Blocking, colluding, deliberate crashing, saying "after you" — all these take place, because Formula One motor-racing takes place on tracks where sometimes it seems all but impossible to race motors.

There is a serious design flaw: it is almost impossible for one car to overtake another. Lacking the very first and crucial element of racing, Formula One falls back on its pitstop strategies and its conspiracies. It's great soap opera, but sport it ain't.

Schumacher broke the rules. Williams and McLaren look too cosy by half. The Labour Party has driven straight up its own exhaust pipe. Formula One is discredited in every possible fashion. And it's being so, it merely goes from strength to strength.

Formula One has still got 'em all hooked, and the scammers do not hinder it: quite the reverse. The audience grows and grows: and what else matters? To them, I mean? Pass us another gasper, old boy. My little lad's got mine.



THE CHEQUERED FLAG

Alan Coren

■ The strange case of a combustible comestible from California

Never look a gift horse in the mouth. Look it in the bowels. In the bowels is where the Greeks lurk, waiting to debouch and sack.

A free pudding arrived this morning. I did not immediately know it was a free pudding. I did not know it was any kind of pudding. I knew only that the doorbell had rung, and that I had signed for a small yet heavy cardboard cube which I carried into the kitchen, put on the table, and looked at. I now knew it had come from the United States, because it had 32 Elvis Presley stamps covering the whole of one flank; which in itself was arresting, since set out as they were in painstaking phalanx, the effect the Elvises collectively created was of a small, silkscreened Warhol. The person who stuck these down, ran my first thought, is not an ordinary person. I lifted the box again, turned it, and now saw that it carried a US Customs declaration, identifying it as "gifted comestible bakery for personal consumption, value not more than \$10".

Knowing me as you do, you will be unsurprised to learn that I spent the next minute or so wondering just how gifted this comestible bakery might be given the limitless ingenuity of Americans, the box could well contain, say, a dozen tap-dancing bagels, or an angel cake with a PhD in quantum mechanics, or a fondant fancy which, when its glace cherry was poked, did an impression of Groucho Marx reciting the Gettysburg Address — remote offices, I grant you, especially for less than ten bucks, but, then again, the box bore a California postmark, so nothing was impossible.

It was time either to chuck it in a bucket of water and run, or open it. Not the easiest of choices — a gifted West Coast comestible carried by 32 obsessively arranged Elvises gives off a sharp psychopathic whiff — but I am not young, it has been a full life, my affairs are in order, and the daily was using the bucket, so I removed the wrapping paper, and pried open the lid.

Nothing went bang. Inside, there was a lot of bubble-wrap, and inside that there was a lot of tinfoil, and inside that there was something not, indeed, unlike a bomb: the sort of bomb you find in animated cartoons, round, curly, and with a curly thing poking out of the top; in this instance holly. It smelt of brandy. It was a Christmas pudding.

It had a card for me. The card had holly on it, too, and robins, and silver bells, and a dark brown stain indicating that a long, boring flight in such tantalising proximity to booze had got the better of the card. A pity, because when I plucked the card out to discover who my distant benefactor was, all I discovered was that his/her writing had been illegible by the pudding's stain. Worst of all, there was no way of telling whether the card had ever carried a name or address. I say worst of all not because it meant that I could not write to thank my benefactor, it meant that, if he/she had withheld the name or address, how could I be sure that the pudding had not been sent by a distant malefactor?

There are a lot of very peculiar characters over there, mooching the Pacific shore and jabbering to themselves; they imbibe strange substances, they do strange things, often serially. In a culture whose legally appointed guardians once sent exploding cigars to Fidel Castro, who could with any confidence say that some unoffical crook, some lunatic sect, had not decided to express its contempt for Christmas by filling the mails with poisoned puddings?

I know six people in California. I phoned them all, even though I had not seen them in 20 years, and asked, I have little doubt that all six subsequently hung up thanking their lucky stars that, however wacky California might be, it wasn't as wacky as England. What do I do now? I do not want to bin what might be a delicious treat from someone who loves me, but nor do I want, on Christmas Day, to walk into my dining room with a flaming item designed to snuff the lot of us out.

Have I, that is, been sent a Trojan pudding? When dotty old Ezra Pound foresaw "new Troys that tumble, sizzling", was he perhaps thinking of Cricklewood? With crazy Americans, you can never be sure.

Exploding the myth

It is time the West stopped fooling itself that bombs destroy dictators

I cannot believe Tony Blair means to support Bill Clinton in resuming the punitive bombing of Iraq. This week British and American forces are said to be selecting targets for such strikes, unless Saddam Hussein withdraws his opposition to American UN inspectors. It beggars belief that Labour's prophets of "moralism" can see bombing as a sensible way out of this impasse. Yet so it seems. British aircrews may themselves carry out the bombing.

Both Mr Blair and his Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, are seasoned supporters of aerial bombardment. They jerked to attention as Tomahawks rained down on Baghdad in September of last year, when Mr Clinton was under pressure from Bob Dole for being weak on foreign policy. Mr Cook claimed that the missiles would "protect the Kurdish safe havens" — despite the CIA having just abandoned these havens to Saddam's Kurdish allies. When the bombs proved ineffective, the then Prime Minister, John Major, said they were "not as successful as one might have wished", and won Labour backing in support for more bombing.

Aerial bombardment enrages populations and strengthens those who still need showing that cruise missiles may be Space Age technology but are Dark Ages war. Tomahawks are hardly more accurate than Germany's V1 and V2 rockets in the Second World War. A bomb that misses by 100ft, as did most bombs that fell on Baghdad in 1990-91, more than fails. Depending on its cargo, it fragments, blasts, fries or dismembers its victims. What is obscene is that it does so supposedly to stop Iraq making bombs that use poisons.

Sanctions against Iraq were alleged to "work in two years", according to General Colin Powell. They never have and they never do. Yet they are more effective in sustaining dictatorship than any other tool of foreign policy. Sanctions prolonged apartheid in South Africa ten years beyond its normal life. The world's oldest rulers are those who have enjoyed the boon of Western sanctions: Fidel Castro, Colonel Gaddafi, Assad of Syria, Iran's ayatollahs, Milosevic, now Saddam Hussein. All were mice that roared at Uncle Sam. All were rewarded with the Oscar of "most hated regime", and an indefinite hold on power.

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dictators quaking into submission. So says the instruction booklet. That is what Foreign Ministers, or at least British ones, like to believe. The Gulf War showed, to those who still needed showing, that cruise missiles may be Space Age technology but are Dark Ages war. Tomahawks are hardly more accurate than Germany's V1 and V2 rockets in the Second World War. A bomb that misses by 100ft, as did most bombs that fell on Baghdad in 1990-91, more than fails. Depending on its cargo, it fragments, blasts, fries or dismembers its victims. What is obscene is that it does so supposedly to stop Iraq making bombs that use poisons.

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Why postwar diplomacy's chief gift to the "long march of folly" should be sanctions and punitive bombing is a mystery. Both are known to be counterproductive. They impede trade and thus the liberalisation of political economies. The sanctions against Iraq have been grotesquely anti-humanitarian. They have been awfully hypocritical. Why is it that Americans are so intent on bombing Iraq without need for a land invasion? Such was the cry of airmen from Bomber Harris to the hawks of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. All air forces claim they can "bomb" the enemy to the negotiating table or the Dark Ages, according to taste. Such empty arrogance is plausibly believed by politicians eager to be seen as active, yet terrified of committing ground troops to battle.

Iraq's leadership has now joined the lucky group of regimes propped up, apparently without limit, by the crassness of Western diplomacy. The economic sanctions in place against Iraq are as ineffective as the bombing. They hit the poor hardest and the rulers not at all. Far from inducing the former to rise up against the latter, they enable rulers to assert even fiercer authority. The need for rationing and import-substitution justifies emergency measures that centralise and entrench power. Sanctions warriors love to claim that sanctions are "working", when they are merely "biting".

Any fool can impoverish a country.

Yet if economic sanctions are a cowardly proxy for war, bombing is a cruel one. The bombing raid is random corporal punishment. It makes a noise and looks good on television. The sight of jets screaming off the decks of carriers into the sunset of a missile curving beautifully towards its target of a pilot shouting "target hit", all sends a primitive thrill through a politician, as if recalling the old thrill of war. A bomb teaches 'em a lesson, makes a bang, plays well back home. It may not kill villains but at least blood is

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A PRICE ON POLITICS

There are no easy answers to party funding

The Labour Party spent most of yesterday engaged in damage limitation. The substantial political contribution received from Bernie Ecclestone has become a serious embarrassment. The Formula One chief had originally denied any financial relationship with the party. *The Times* then revealed that he had paid first the Tories and then New Labour. The size of his bequest was initially minimised by party sources — at more than £5000. Yesterday *The Times* assessed it at £1.5 million. We are now told that the sum was £1 million. A final and formal figure has not yet been given. It was certainly an extremely significant sum.

The first reaction of many in the Labour Party has been to blame the system rather than their own scruples. David Blunkett expressed his view, sincerely held no doubt, that public life would be more pleasant and much cleaner if the taxpayer rather than affluent individuals, corporations, or trade unions paid for the political process. He also accepted that this ambition was unlikely to be realised. Others hope that Sir Patrick Neill's committee will recommend state funding and prove their salvation. Downing Street has suggested that the Ecclestone affair has discredited the status quo. If only paying for politics was so simple.

For over a century there has been state subsidy for political parties. Election literature is delivered free. Television time is reserved at no cost. Since the 1970s the Leader of the Opposition has received a sum — "Short money" — to cover in part the expense of his or her parliamentary offices. Apart from that, the consistent principle has been that public benefaction should be in the form of in-kind contributions. The notion of awarding lump sums to support pure partisan campaigning has been alien.

There is much that is wrong with state funding in principle. But the practical problems are no less troublesome. Should

parties be permitted to receive revenue only from the taxpayer? If so, what would be their incentive to seek a mass membership? Power might then move back towards the activists, an effect precisely the opposite of what Mr Blair has achieved with his party.

If the politicians were permitted to raise bounties from other sources then it is unclear how the introduction of state funding would help stop problems such as those from Mr Ecclestone. Who should decide how much each party received and upon what formula? Should controls be placed on how the leadership dispensed of their largesse? The complications are intense and endless.

This issue could be addressed from a different direction. There is convincing evidence that the financial support now offered to the Leader of the Opposition is inadequate. That shortfall has led to the quest for extra cash and the need for wealthy sympathisers. Neil Kinnock found himself in Robert Maxwell's debt to his discomfort. Mr Blair's attempt to avoid such links through a blind trust has also failed to win support. It would be in the public interest to provide a larger parliamentary allowance.

Any wider addition to state support would be contentious. The taxpayer may well not want to finance election campaigns as well as live through them. It might be more effective to oblige parties to offer full and extremely prompt disclosure of major donors and the size of their donation. If Mr Ecclestone's generous gift had been a matter of record, it is doubtful whether this unfortunate affair would have proceeded in the same manner.

As the Prime Minister must realise, an open approach is far better than smoke-filled rooms in Downing Street. It now falls to Sir Patrick Neill to construct a practical system of party finance that also commands credibility. It is unlikely that state funding in itself will prove a satisfactory solution.

FAST TRACK FAILURE

An enfeebled President must rescue his free trade agenda

If it looks like a duck, talks like a duck, and walks like a duck then it is a duck. If it hobbles horrendously then it is a lame duck. A mere 12 months after his triumphant re-election, President Clinton's authority at home has been severely shaken. His failure to persuade Congress that he should be awarded "fast track" authority for future trade negotiations will have implications that extend well beyond this important issue itself. After this loss, his ability even to initiate domestic issues of substance rather than symbolism appears doubtful.

Despite intense personal lobbying, Mr Clinton was obliged to ask the House of Representatives to withdraw his own request for renewed powers on trade questions. That was humiliating in itself. The source of the President's discomfort was not the Republican Party, his opponents, who command a majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Three quarters of Republicans were poised to assent. Mr Clinton was instead abandoned by his own Democratic party.

That nearly four fifths of Democrats decided to support the protectionist position preferred by the American trade union movement to that of their own President is extraordinary. The Democratic Party under Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John Kennedy was a fundamental force for free trade in the postwar era. That commitment was central to stable democracy and economic prosperity in those decades. It has also been an important element in the current strength of the American economy. This is a shameful turn of events.

An ambitious set of prospective trade agreements has been placed in peril. The swift expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement to include Chile — a logical move — seems now unlikely. The plan for a free trade arrangement encompassing the Americas has been en-

dangered. A similar enterprise for the Asia-Pacific Economic Community is threatened. Some of these propositions resembled regional blocks rather than genuine global free trade. Although American interests will be damaged, their demise would not be so unfortunate from an outside perspective.

A much more powerful impact will be felt in agriculture. The World Trade Organisation had been scheduled to start new talks in 1999 on radically reducing farm subsidies. If the American administration is not fully involved these discussions will make minimal progress. That means the European Union's common agricultural policy will continue to resist meaningful reform. Many of the world's poor will remain needlessly hungry. A political defeat for Mr Clinton will be a personal disaster for others.

The President must pick up the pieces of his policy. There has been brave talk about this legislation returning and passing. That is possible but problematic. If Democrats in Congress are unwilling to resist blackmail from trade unions 12 months ahead of the mid-term elections they are unlikely to become more independent as the polls approach. There might be another opportunity in the first few months of 1999 — but only if the Republicans make a significant advance and if Vice-President Gore commits himself to the cause. It would be unwise to operate on the assumption that both conditions can be satisfied.

The President should now work within the structure of the World Trade Organisation. This is the only arena — and the best one — for advancing a free trade agenda. His decision to ask for a mandate not linked to a specific trade treaty probably enhanced congressional opposition. He needs to present concrete proposals in future. The danger is that Mr Clinton will be inclined to abandon the field of battle. That would be a mistake felt long after his presidency.

CULTURE AT A PRICE

Minimum 'voluntary' donations could save museums

In an ideal world, all public museums might be free. But the world, as Labour has quickly discovered, is far from ideal. A party that suggested only four months ago that free access to the nation's great museums and galleries should be preserved is regretting its extravagance. Now the talk is of the need to raise money from other sources.

Before the laments begin, however, it is worth revisiting the basic principles. Museums should be free because they serve a public good (that of widening people's cultural horizons) and are already funded by the taxpayer. Yet the same could be said of public transport: it serves the public good by reducing pollution and congestion, and it wins money from the Treasury. Yet still passengers are expected to pay.

Public transport offers few concessions to the poor. But a flexible system of museum charging could be better than free access in meeting Labour's concerns about fairness. A report published yesterday by the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) found that the so-called "ABCs" were 15 times that the average citizen to have visited a museum or gallery within the past year. So, in the free museums, the average taxpayer is subsidising the affluent.

The fear is that charges would deter people from visiting museums at all. The

evidence, however, is not conclusive. Yesterday's report found that, while attendance at some galleries had dropped after charges were introduced, in others it had risen, mainly because the museums paid more attention to satisfying their paying guests.

Any system of charging has to be flexible if the poor are not to be excluded from the nation's culture. Free entry can be offered to the unemployed, to pensioners and to children. Charging institutions can open for free on Sundays or in the late afternoons. Season tickets can be available so that people are not deterred from making repeat visits.

Perhaps the best option is to solicit a minimum "voluntary" donation, which can be waived for those who genuinely cannot afford it. This finds support from 71 per cent of adults questioned by the MGC. Moral suasion is seen to be more civilised than compulsion, and fits better with the ethos of the museums themselves.

In these times, museums badly need money. Even if they win lottery funding, they have to match the amounts from the private sector. With thousands of applicants chasing the same corporate donors, the business pool is drying up. Far better to take small sums from a large number of visitors — the very people who enjoy the museum in the first place.

Tory divide and the quest for a leading role in Europe

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Bruce Anderson

Sir, When Matthew Parris made his maiden speech as an MP he referred to the lyre of Orpheus. He has been playing it ever since, and his column of November 7, "A siesta at High Noon", was characteristically mellifluous and seductive. But there were flaws in the argument.

If the politicians were permitted to raise bounties from other sources then it is unclear how the introduction of state funding would help stop problems such as those from Mr Ecclestone. Who should decide how much each party received and upon what formula? Should controls be placed on how the leadership dispensed of their largesse? The complications are intense and endless.

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As the Prime Minister must realise, an open approach is far better than smoke-filled rooms in Downing Street. It now falls to Sir Patrick Neill to construct a practical system of party finance that also commands credibility. It is unlikely that state funding in itself will prove a satisfactory solution.

The national interest will be harmed by each anti-competitive measure, particularly the minimum wage, imposed works councils, positive discrimination, working-time regulations, transfer of undertakings regulations and changing the onus of proof in industrial legislation.

Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool recently calculated that the reduction to the GDP of the United Kingdom, if the social chapter as further developed were fully implemented here, could be as much as 20 per cent. Is it the Government's true intention to give us disadvantages chosen by others?

There could be no greater damage to the competitive advantages that the UK now enjoys in attracting investment than to impose the regulations and central controls of the social chapter that the rest of the world seeks to avoid by investing in the UK.

Financial services are among the most liberalised and market-orientated sectors of the UK economy. We have long led Europe and the world. The responsive and innovative characteristics of this industry would be damaged by imposition of inappropriate labour regulations restraining the long and unusual hours, the hard work and the international mobility which are central to its success.

A senior member of the Government, the Deputy Prime Minister, confessed candidly in 1992 that the minimum wage must lead to reducing or not taking on staff. Employers' costs will be driven up and there will be disincentives to continue the present levels of part-time employment, welcomed by many with family responsibilities.

The new Government's approach failed the Chancellor's five economic tests. The Conservative Party is right to oppose it. To follow its own logic, the Government ought to do so too.

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY (Member, Foreign Affairs Select Committee, House of Commons, November 11).

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Love Europe, but loathe the euro", November 4) argues that, contrary to the current partisan terms of debate about EMU, it should be possible to be both a Europhile and an EMU-sceptic.

This argument could be taken a stage further, for if EMU, as seems perfectly possible, is mishandled in the same sort of way as monetary union in Germany was botched, and creates, as happened in East Germany, areas of massive unemployment and economic dereliction, then the results for the European Union could be disastrous.

Tensions and animosity between the "winning" and "losing" countries

would be ripe for exploitation by nationalist politicians trying to stoke up anti-European sentiment, undoing the progress of the last 40 years.

True Europhiles in fact ought to be EMU-sceptics.

Yours etc,
ADRIAN COSKER
(Head of Economics),
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.
November 4.

From Lord Alport

Sir, Having been a dedicated Commonwealth man for all my active political life, I realise that Great Britain's role is now to be a major power in Europe. It is a role which, having lost an empire, can enable us to exert an influence on the world's stage with honour to our country and benefit, not only to our neighbours in Europe, but to the nations of the five continents.

"Splendid isolation", which appealed to so many people in the early years of this century, is simply now an illusion, as it proved to be. That is the policy of the Tory Eurosceptics and their sympathisers in other parties.

Without Britain in Europe our continent would be dominated by Germany. It is now time to put aside the prejudices of some narrow nationalists and regain for our country a role in Europe and thus in the world, different from but perhaps no less important than the one we achieved during the two centuries of Empire and Commonwealth.

I am your obedient servant,
ALPORT,
The Cross House,
Layer-de-la-Haye,
Colchester, Essex.
November 7.

From Mr John Howlett

Sir, I much enjoyed Matthew Parris's article of November 7, but cannot accept his advice to "Go to bed. Get some sleep". The poor chap obviously finds the sound of adults arguing loudly rather alarming and wants to pull the covers over his head.

Politics is about the avoidance of ideas and opinions, not their avoidance. We have been getting too much sleep, not too little.

As Sir James Goldsmith graphically put it, we have been sleep-walking into Europe. If we go back to sleep again we will wake up to find ourselves imprisoned in Chancellor Kohl's megastate, with no prospect of release.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWLETT,
3 West Street,
Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire.
November 7.

Given that only 20 per cent at best of the proposed game's take is likely to go to charities — Camelot's National Lottery (based in my constituency) pays out twice as much to good causes, and in tax — it would be necessary for Pronto to generate an annual turnover of £500 million (which is now more than the total football pools sales in a year) to deliver £100 million for charities.

The social cost of linking alcohol, drinking and gambling would far outweigh the alleged benefits, and I am looking forward to the Home Secretary's announcement that Keno, Pronto, or similar rapid-draw lottery games (no matter which organisation promotes them) will not ever be permitted in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE M. WARD,
House of Commons.
November 7.

Truth and half-truth

From Mr Negley Boyd Harte

Sir, I see in your Diary today you describe my brother Glynn Boyd Harte as a "Scottish watercolourist". There are a number of nouns that could describe him and watercolourist is certainly one of them; but of the many adjectives that could be applied, Scottish is not one. He, like me, is a Lancastrian in heavy metropolitan disguise. It is true we have a Scottish great-grandmother, but that is surely not enough.

I write to correct this point while Glynn is in France for half-term. I am still at my desk in the history department at University College London trying to deal with all your readers agitated about Joseph Crabbtree studies (report, October 27; letter, November 3) which does not enable me to get away for reading week.

Yours faithfully,
N. B. HARTE
(Secretary),
The Crabbtree Foundation,
University College London,
Department of History,
Gower Street, WC1.
ucrabb@ucl.ac.uk
November 3.

Scientific spin

From Mr Patrick Green

Sir, You report (November 7) that spinning black holes (or other matter) can distort time and space.

Is this a coincidence of scientific and political discovery? I remain, Sir, yours,
PATRICK GREEN,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.
November 10.

Woodward verdict

From Dr Mary Selby

Sir, Thank you to Libby Purves for writing the most piece I have seen on the Louise Woodward case ("Soap opera justice", November 11). I understand that Louise is currently being offered money for her "story" by some newspapers. But isn't there a code of practice preventing convicted criminals from doing just that? My understanding of the US judicial system is that she is still convicted, albeit on a lesser charge.

As for the vilification in some quarters of the press of the bereaved parents — let anyone who has never lost their child in the care of someone else, even for a moment, condemn them, and let the rest shut up.

Yours sincerely,
MARY SELBY,
Hall Green Cottage,
Great Wratting, Haverhill, Suffolk.
November 11.

From Mr Peter Inglis

Sir, As someone involved in child protection work for many years, I feel that if the British people are sincere in their wish for justice they should focus on the real issue. A child, totally dependent on adults for his care, died as a result of injuries he could not possibly have inflicted on himself.

Yours faithfully,
PETER INGLIS,
Finch Cottage,
Newgate, Pembrokeshire.
November 11.

Missed target

From Mr David T. Bradley

Sir, The photograph accompanying your report "Police discover Russian tanks in Liverpool" (November 7) in fact shows Second World War vehicles.

The vehicles nearest the camera are M-18 Hellcat tank destroyers. Others in the photo appear to be M-36 destroyers and possibly at least one M-4 Sherman tank.

The only connection these vehicles have with the Russian T-55 is that in the course of their service with the Yugoslav Army many had their original US engines replaced with those from T-55.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRADLEY,
20 South Drive, Brentwood, Essex.
November 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Opera funding

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock

Sir, Ten years ago you commissioned me to write an article ("Pruning the Garden", March 14, 1987) on the problem of financing Covent Garden. I suggested that it is an artistic enterprise which benefits the well-off in the most affluent part of the United Kingdom could hardly expect privileged treatment in the allocation of public funds and that it should rely on its own considerable efforts to seek private funding.

I expected that this suggestion might initiate a sensible discussion about an important public issue. I was wrong, however. Clearly those of us from the lesser breeds outside the metropolis had no business to question the

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 1997

NEWS

Pledge to review political funding

■ A top-to-bottom reform of the way Britain's political parties are funded was promised by the Government as it struggled to wipe away the taint of sleaze surrounding its decision to exempt motor racing from any tobacco advertising ban.

After Labour was forced to admit that it had received £1 million from the Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, the Government hastened its review of political funding and hinted that the law would be changed to ensure that all such handouts were disclosed in future. **Pages 1, 8, 23**

Schumacher 'leniency' condemned

■ Two British former world motor-racing champions condemned the lenient punishment given to Michael Schumacher, of Germany, for deliberately ramming Jacques Villeneuve during the European Grand Prix last month. **Pages 1, 8, 52**

Teachers to hit back

Teachers have been advised by their union to "bush and dash" when cornered by an aggressive pupil or parent by aiming for the knee, solar plexus, elbow or little finger. **Page 1**

Au pair's gratitude

The British au pair Louise Woodward broke her silence to thank the judge who freed her and to mourn the baby she was convicted of killing. She hoped that "scientific evidence convinces the Eppen family that I did their son no harm". **Pages 1, 5**

Portillo pitches in

Michael Portillo cast himself in the unlikely role of an amateur politician helping out an old friend when he went campaigning in Winchester. **Page 2**

Star can't see film

Mischa Barton, 11, the little star of *Lawn Dogs* has been told that she will not be allowed to watch the film since the censors have given it a 15-certificate. **Page 3**

Peace priority

Mary McAleese was sworn in as the eighth President of Ireland and pledged to use her term to bring peace to Ulster. **Page 6**

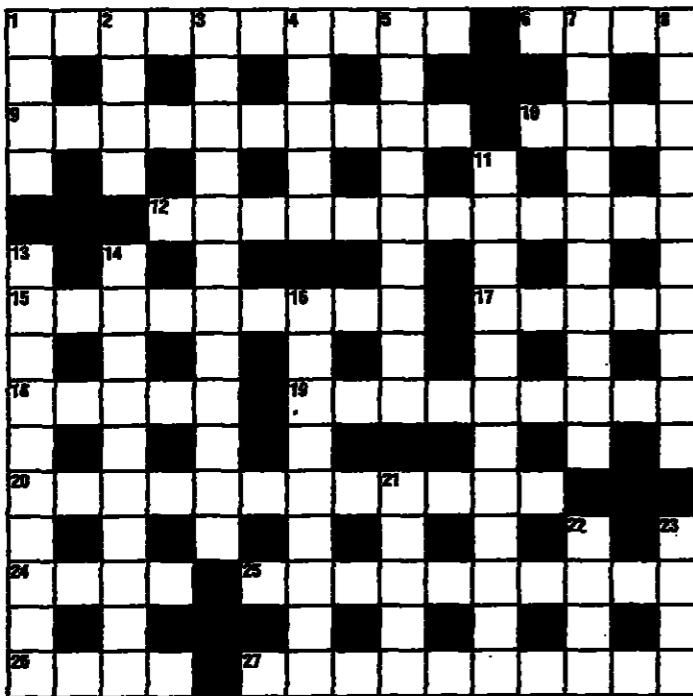
Teenager tortured

Teenager Kelly Bates was systematically tortured by her 49-year-old boyfriend for up to four weeks before she was murdered, a court was told. **Page 7**

Soggy sandwiches spark free for all

■ An evening to cement international friendships ended with police being called after a fight broke out over food. The town of Bridgwater, Somerset, twinned with Homberg, Germany, and Uherske Hradiste, Czech Republic, was entertaining its guests in separate rooms. The battle broke out when one side got chicken and salami and the other, soggy sandwiches. **Page 1**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,635



ACROSS

- Race boldly organised as contest between neighbours (5,5).
- 6 Fell for composer dropping in (4).
- 9 Prayers best revised without a lot of elders (10).
- 10 Just entertainment (4).
- 12 British statesman still needed in international meetings? (12).
- 15 The kind of farm butter kids need (5-4).
- 17 Singer's theme (5).
- 18 Lover needing ring puts capital up front (5).
- 19 Punishing run in meandering setting (9).
- 20 So tamed etc, I'd reformed? (12).
- 24 Common grub found in wheat stalks (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,634

■ LANCER SPECTRUM
BO 7 X A P
PERSIANAGE LOTH
I T H N C O H
REPULSED RANGER
M E O A P
HOPIT NOTATION
I S A G E A I
ADORABLE ACES
S A S R S I
STABLE ENTREPRE
A A M Y N I
FEGS FROG, COOYIE
B E I N E E H
CROCKERY SCREEN

- 25 One way sage is surviving in the city (10).
- 26 Go for a walk round corner (4).
- 27 Prepare garden inside convert for one type of butterfly (10).

- 1 Bound to be left open for poets (4).
- 2 Company giving credit points (4).
- 3 One has nobody up in the ring with right punch, say (7,5).
- 4 Rotten school report (5).
- 5 Regularly tapped in lobby, one shows the pressure (9).
- 7 Parts nobody believes in (10).
- 8 A few words in support of the standard interpretation (10).
- 11 Helpful number (12).
- 13 Cooking dinner, I get this part of it (10).
- 14 What gives Air Force, say, direction and power? (10).
- 16 Haberdasher abroad better qualified? (9).
- 21 Turn aside right after welcome (5).

- 22 Size of type showing abnormal appetite (4).
- 23 Refuse in secluded part of house an unknown quantity (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Latest: Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Inside HOI 0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Motorways 0336 401 749
Channel crossings 0336 401 598
Planning to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 503

Weather by Fax

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CBI casts doubts on 'golden rule' to control finance

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday cast doubt on Gordon Brown's "golden rule" as the Government's target for controlling public finances.

The CBI urged the Government to shift towards a new measure of fiscal control, but called on ministers to stick to a firm ceiling on public spending.

Confederation leaders announced their views on public finances before the conclusions of the Government's spending reviews and the outline Green Budget this month.

The CBI said that uncertain-

ties surrounded the Chancellor's pledge that over the economic cycle the Government would only borrow to invest, and not to fund current expenditure. This included the inability to distinguish cash-generating investments from those which were not, and whether they were defined net or gross of depreciation.

The CBI said: "Taking all these uncertainties into account, it does not seem right to make a switch to the golden rule" as our main target."

The CBI also recommended that the Government put

greater emphasis on to the general government financial deficit rather than the public sector borrowing requirement as the means of fiscal control. As well as being in line with international standards, the move would allow greater commercial freedom to public corporations operating in competitive markets.

CBI leaders said that there was still a "strong case" for privatising such bodies, which include the Post Office, but if privatisation was to be ruled out, then commercial freedom in the public sector, and in particular the ability to borrow to invest, would be a "step in the right direction".

Leaders of the CBI urged the Government to maintain firm control on public spending, with a clear upper limit on expenditure financed by taxes and government borrowing of 40 per cent of GDP.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "The Government faces difficult choices as it seeks to balance the growing demand for public services with the need to keep down public borrowing and tax rises."

Ministers should consider extending new ways of paying for services, including the Private Finance Initiative and charging, to allow funding for education and transport to rise in real terms.

"blackbox" decoder among the public is less than £100, although there are those, possibly heavy TV viewers, who are prepared to go up to £150. Above £200 — the likely subsidised retail price — consumer interest declines rapidly.

Almost two thirds are aware of digital television, 39 per cent know that it will mean more channels, and 37 per cent better picture and sound.

Viewers put price on value of digital TV

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

NEARLY half the UK population would be interested in buying a digital television box to increase their choice of viewing — but only at the right price.

A new survey, by Taylor Nelson AGB Research, suggests that the price of the equipment is an important key to the development of services with up to 200 channels of television. The most popular price for the



Keith Stott, chief executive of WT Foods, which raised pre-tax profits from £701,000 to £1.64 million in the six months to September 30 on sales up from £12 million to £18 million. The interim dividend is held at 50p a share out of earnings up from 0.95p to 1.41p. The board is confident of maintaining the performance in the second half.

Second payment for BCCI depositors

By JON ASHWORTH

DEPOSITORS in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) are set to receive a second dividend of up to 15.5 per cent next summer, it was disclosed yesterday.

Georges Baden, one of the two Luxembourg liquidators of BCCI, told a meeting of depositors at Westminster that the money would be paid in June 1998, funds allowing. Depositors received an initial 24.5 per cent last December, and had been told to expect a further payout of at least 10 per cent.

Thousands of depositors lost their savings when BCCI was shut by the Bank of England in July 1991. Total debts came to £6 billion, and progress towards compensating savers has been slow. Deloitte & Touche, the English liquidator of BCCI, has been criticised over the level of fees paid.

Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, hosted yesterday's meeting of the Depositors' Protection Association (DPA), whose members between them have claims of more than £625 million. About 60 members attended. Adil Elias, the DPA chairman, described BCCI depositors as "the forgotten victims", and called on the Bank of England to own up to regulatory failings in monitoring BCCI.

Deloitte & Touche had been seeking £50 million plus interest in damages from the Bank of England in connection with alleged negligence in its regulation and licensing of BCCI, but the claim was struck out in the High Court. In a ruling in May, Mr Justice Clarke ruled that the Bank could not be held liable for "misfeasance" — conduct worse than negligent — in carrying out its duties as a regulator of BCCI. An appeal is to be heard by July 1998.

Deutsche Telekom share sale on hold

GERMANY has postponed the sale of DM8 billion (£4.7 billion) worth of shares in Deutsche Telekom until next year. The sale of DM2 billion worth of the shares to the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, will, however, go ahead this year under new budget plans announced yesterday by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. About DM23 billion of stock will now be sold during 1998 under the new budget plans.

The adjustments to the share sale plans follow fresh calculations of expected tax revenues for 1997 and 1998. The 1997 tax forecast has been cut by DM6.7 billion. The shortfall will be made up by the postponement of repayments to the fund for old East German debts, a reduction in unemployment benefits, and restrictions on government spending. The fresh calculations will leave Germany's federal budget at DM57 billion for 1998, slightly down from the previous estimate of DM57.8 billion in the draft budget.

Eagle Star jobs to go

EAGLE STAR, part of the financial services arm of BAT Industries, which is to merge next year with Zurich Life, is disbanding its direct sales force with the potential loss of 300 jobs. The company said that the reorganisation had nothing to do with the impending merger and that it had decided to concentrate on selling products through independent financial advisers and over the telephone. The move is evidence of a growing trend in insurance away from direct sales agents.

Call for insurer clarity

INSURANCE companies have been urged to come clean over what cover they will provide if the "millennium time bomb" goes off. The call, by the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers, follows fears that some policies may have exclusion clauses if computer systems crash because they fail to recognise the year 2000. The association said insurance companies should provide a clear statement on their position to policyholders.

Bid talks lift Menvier

SHARES in Menvier-Swain, the emergency lighting and security group, rose 49p to 254p as the group revealed that it was in talks with a third party which may result in an offer for the company. At yesterday's closing price the group is worth £132 million on the stock market. The shares reached a high of 338p in the early part of 1997 before falling to the 200p mark after a profits warning. The company took over Scantronic two years ago.

Pennzoil bid warning

UNION Pacific Resources Group said it will call off its \$6.4 billion offer for Pennzoil unless the oil company enters "good faith" merger discussions. Jack Messman, Union Pacific chief executive, said that because the value of Pennzoil's international assets appeared "to have eroded sharply" it was not in the best interests of Union Pacific shareholders to continue to pursue the offer on an unsolicited basis for an indeterminate period.

Trust value surges

GROWTH in Latin American economies helped Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets Investment Trust to increase net asset value to 157.1p a share from 112.6p in the year to September 30. This was well ahead of its benchmark, the IFC Global Total Return Composite Index. The shares, which peaked at 130p in August, closed at 103.4p yesterday. Turbulent Asian markets, where the trust has a 17.8 per cent stake, have eroded the share price.

Cranswick lifts profits

CRANSWICK, the pet, agribusiness and food group, lifted pre-tax profits 15 per cent to £2.1 million in the half-year to September 30. Earnings rose 16 per cent to 10.2p a share and the interim dividend rises 8 per cent to 3.25p. Jim Bloom, the chairman, said there had been a significant increase in food manufacturing sales of retail packing, gourmet sausages and ham. Turnover fell to £75.1 million from £79.1 million after a reduction in raw material costs.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

Save £4 on BBC cookery book

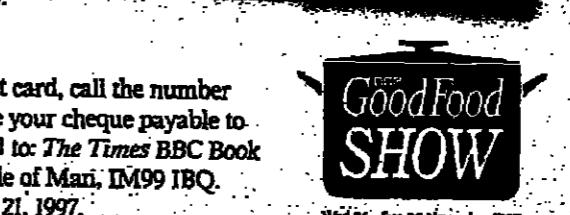
This week *The Times*, in association with the BBC Good Food Show, offers you the chance to buy a series of outstanding cookery books by celebrity chefs at up to £5 less than the cover price.

Today's choice is *Wild Harvest* (£11.99 instead of £15.99) by Ready Steady Cook chef, Nick Nairn. Nairn takes you on a gastronomic tour of Scotland, using basic techniques to produce food that is simple yet fun to prepare.

You can see him and a host of celebrity chefs, demonstrating live at this year's BBC Good Food Show between November 26-30 at the NEC, Birmingham. To book tickets, call the show hotline on 0121 767 4000 quoting NTI for your *Times* discount. (Weekday £8.10, weekend £9.10).

HOW TO ORDER

To order your book/s by credit card, call the number below. To order by post, make your cheque payable to Book Service by Post and send to: *The Times* BBC Book Offer, PO Box 29, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM99 1BQ. The closing date is November 21, 1997.



ORDER HOTLINE 01624 675137

CHANGING TIMES

"...best little PC."
—Steve, 4/97, P. Wayner
"Gorgeous."
—What Video & TV, 6/97, B. Fox
"...innovations galore..."
—Mobile Computing, 12/96, M. Campanelli
"Damn fast."
—The Paperless Office, 2/97, N. Ballard
"...better than sex!"
—Modern Loving, 7/97, N. Lam



(Okay, so we made the last one up.)

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

It's hard to top all the great things people are saying about Velo, the handheld PC. GENE Peacock, "The best of the Windows CE Platform". "Extremely compact, very convenient and built to protect for you". "A great handheld computer, the only one that's truly portable". "The ultimate portable PC". *PC Magazine* "For the whole truth on Velo, visit us at www.volo.com THE WINDOWS ANYWHERE

CONDUP

The Telekom sale on hold

Delayed the sale of DM5 billion (£4.6 billion) worth of the shares to the Deutsche Telekom until next year, will, however, go ahead in August. Minister: About DM5 billion to be sold during 1998 under the share sale plan, follow fresh tax revenues for 1997 and 1998. The repayment of debts to the government, a reduction in the government's federal budget by 1.5% slightly down from the previous

tar jobs to go

at the financial services arm of Baj to merge next year with Zurich Life. It follows the potential loss of 200 and that the reorganisation had nothing to do with the company's chief executive. But Sir Christopher held fire on both counts, preferring to concentrate on tidy up the business and instigating some of the things only new boys can get away with, such as stock write-downs. Now, however, perhaps influenced by the continuing under-performance of Allied shares, he is prepared to consider the D-word. Demerger, he says, would be "more a matter of pragmatism than principle", but while this sentiment strikes a discordant note coming from the intellectually refined Sir Christopher, it finally encapsulates the demands of the stock market.

But the Diageo deal has begun the shakeout which has been threatening the spirits sector for a decade. If Allied moves fast to pick the right global partner, whether in a merger or a less intractable alliance, it could cer-

tainly give Diageo a contest. Demerger is not always a recipe for success. Sir Christopher's splitting of Courtaulds almost a decade ago did not have the same liberating effect as ICI's discovery of Zeneca within its empire — but it would concentrate the minds of top management and investors. And a business that glories in owning the Big Steak Pub/Wacky Warehouse concept surely should not be mixed up with the likes of Kahlua.

Abbey National strides from herd

There was a touch of Gavyn Davies meets *The Archers* in the airwaves yesterday, as the Goldman Sachs economist warned the CBI that the economy is growing furiously and the Office of National Statistics intoned that the dreadful crop of potatoes is to blame.

The moans of Ambridge

could be carrying the can on both

counts should they happen to have a mortgage with Abbey National, which yesterday strode away from the herd and lifted rates by the same quarter per cent imposed by the monetary policy committee of the Bank of England last week. Some lenders have committed themselves to not implementing any rise this year but others will certainly follow Abbey's lead.

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Mr Davies in Birmingham.

He has little time for *Archers*-

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Mr Davies's opposite num-

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moaning in Ambridge, then, but

one for economists to tread

warily now before calling for yet

higher interest rates.

Using the civil law clearly has

advantages. There is a judge not

a jury, and justice can be

dispensed fairly quickly. But as

the DTT has shown so clearly, if

does not matter what system

operates if the prosecuting au-

thority makes basic mistakes like

trying to extradite someone for

an alleged crime not covered by

the extradition treaty.

Concert party

THE one international competi-

tion this Government is sure

to win is for establishing the

greatest number of working

parties in the shortest time.

Yesterday, the President of the

Board of Trade launched six

more, one of them, inevitably,

dedicated to competitiveness.

Top businessmen will be so

occupied filling all the slots that

have been created, the risk is that

their businesses must suffer. Or

were they indispensable after all?

askin-Robbins ice-cream and Ballantine's whisky could be the makings of an interesting evening — although a tub of Häagen-Dazs might hint of even more excitement ahead. But the arguments for keeping ice-cream and whisky under the same corporate roof have never been entirely convincing. Now Sir Christopher Hogg appears to be accepting that there is little mutual benefit to be gained from running food and spirits firms in a single group.

When he took over as chairman of the dispirited Allied Domecq, the City had hoped that Sir Christopher might have demerger on his mind, along with a speedy haul and farewell to the group's chief executive. But Sir Christopher held fire on both counts, preferring to concentrate on tidy up the business and instigating some of the things only new boys can get away with, such as stock write-downs. Now, however, perhaps influenced by the continuing under-performance of Allied shares, he is prepared to consider the D-word. Demerger, he says, would be "more a matter of pragmatism than principle", but while this sentiment strikes a discordant note coming from the intellectually refined Sir Christopher, it finally encapsulates the demands of the stock market.

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Sir Christopher utters the D-word



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

teams persuading the South Americans that Sauza tequila is the perfect nipple and that the ideal snack is a Dunkin' Donut. The tastes do not combine well and neither do the marketing departments, although there may be some cultural knowledge of various communities to share.

That fun-loving Frenchman, Bernard Arnault, has told the boards of Guinness and Grand Met that there is no sense in keeping hamburgers, food and hard drink in one combine but the group's chief executive. But Sir Christopher held fire on both counts, preferring to concentrate on tidy up the business and instigating some of the things only new boys can get away with, such as stock write-downs. Now, however, perhaps influenced by the continuing under-performance of Allied shares, he is prepared to consider the D-word. Demerger, he says, would be "more a matter of pragmatism than principle", but while this sentiment strikes a discordant note coming from the intellectually refined Sir Christopher, it finally encapsulates the demands of the stock market.

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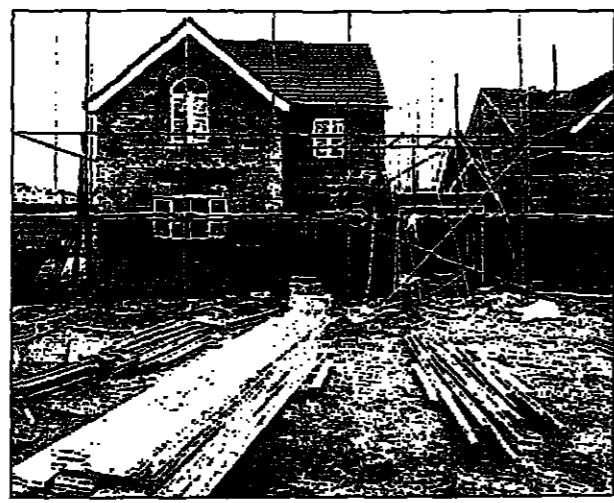
one for economists to tread

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares falter on fears of further interest rate rises



Shares in leading builders dipped on a negative report

CITY investors were running for cover, with the prospect of further interest rate rises now almost inevitable.

Yesterday's rise in the inflation rate to its highest level for more than two years prompted City economists to begin warning of the consequences of the economy's trend. Gavyn Davies, at Goldman Sachs, told the CBI he saw interest rates rising to 8 per cent by the spring. Richard Jeffrey, at Charhouse, the merchant bank, has been warning of inflationary pressures for some time and forecasting 8 per cent base rates before Christmas. "We need to know if they are going to raise rates in December and by how much. The Bank of England needs to become more aggressive. I would like to see it raise rates by half a point next month," he said.

It did little for market confidence, although prices did close above their worst levels of the day after an early markdown. London enjoyed a late rally on the back of an opening rise by the Dow Jones industrial average. The FTSE 100 index clawed back an early 52-point deficit to finish 13.1 down at 4,793.7. Turnover was a lackluster 762 million shares.

The recovery in high street sales during October did little to reassure brokers, who saw it as too little, too late. Nick Bubb, retail analysts at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, wasted little time in downgrading the sector from "positive" to "neutral".

Falls were seen in Great Universal Stores, 51p to 482.1p, Dixons, 18p to 690p, and Courts (Furnishers) 11p to 481.1p.

Some of the biggest turnover was seen in British Telecom, down 31p at 456.1p as London investors turned sellers in the wake of the WorldCom-MCI deal.

Cable & Wireless, up 31p to 485p amid hopes that BT will make a bid. Speculative buying also lifted Securicor, 3p to 286.1p. Now that BT is flushed with cash after the sale of its 20 per cent stake in MCI, hopes are high that it may spend some of it buying Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone operator.

Brokers took full-year figures from Allied Domex in their stride. But the price rose 27p to 508p after the group indicated it may be consider-

ability of a merger with NatWest Group, up 14p at 866p. He refused to comment on reports that the group had approached Legal & General, up 5p at 488p.

Scottish Media, the independent television broadcaster, stood out with a rise of 11p at 676p after the company's own broker upgraded its recommendation for the shares from a "hold" to a "buy".

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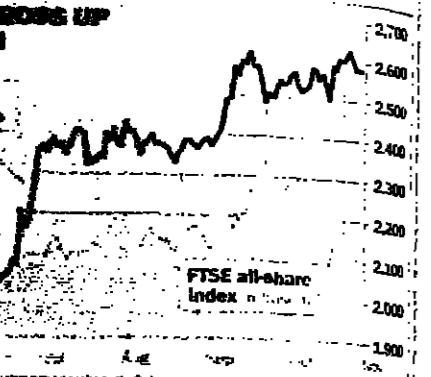
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fancy

sufficiently affluent to develop reasonable holiday charter traffic, but the proximity of Cardiff poses a competitive threat. Small airports ultimately depend on charter traffic, which last year slumped 16 per cent, and it is unwise to expect significant scheduled traffic to build up at small airports in the South of England. Airlines tend to flock together, seeking to operate transfer business that fills empty seats; hence the huge profitability of Head-Bras, which made about £5.50 per passenger last year, compared with BA's £4.50 per passenger across its UK airports. Assuming a £10 million investment, FirstBus is valuing itself at 30 times earnings. You can buy BA at a multiple of 14: reason enough to be sceptical about FirstBus.

recovery provides comfort to those who worry that the superstores have nowhere to go due to restrictions on out-of-town expansion.

And, arguably, the slowdown in building will help avoid a recurrence of the vicious discounting of a year ago. Peace and prosperity are compelling reasons to buy their shares.



A question of mixing business and ethics

To most students, business and ethics are seen as opposing forces. During college days most students postpone so much as thinking about joining the rat race until the very last minute, in the full knowledge that they will all too soon be spilt out the other end of the education system in a pin-striped suit.

But when it comes to the stage of drafting CVs, more sober questions of business life present themselves. How will I earn money? What will I be asked in interviews if this application succeeds?

With these, more brutal questions of business begin to filter through. What if it was me? If I was in charge of Shell: should I blow up the Brent Spar oil rig in the ocean or ship it back home and bury the remains somewhere in Dorset? Should supermarkets shut down small stores and erode local communities or deny customers savings that an out-of-town store could provide? Tough

questions, but the sort of dilemmas being presented to students in this year's Times Ethics Competition, now in its third year. The first prize is £5,000.

This year's problem is familiar. Your company, Biggins International, has been creating jobs and prosperity in a faraway country for many years. Through diplomacy with its leaders and honesty with workers, you have developed a profitable business that leads the growth in the economy.

Then trouble breaks out. The newfound prosperity in the country, which your company has helped to create, is envied by the local military. Its vulnerable Government is overthrown and the country falls to a harsh military junta.

The result isn't pretty. The coup leaders care little for human rights and commit atrocities with impunity. Back home, Britain is looking to Biggins International to take action.

Surely, with your economic power, you can do something to help? Pressure groups urge you to pull out altogether and wash your hands of a nation which has, in international eyes, descended into violent anarchy.

A tough problem. Withdrawing altogether would not exactly make life better for your workers, who would be left without a job as well as

being left to the mercy of the new regime. Picking a fight with military dictators in the public gaze would probably be applauded as a tough line by critics at home, but the new rulers are unlikely to be shown cowering to foreigners.

Behind-the-scenes diplomacy, meanwhile, will do nothing to clear

your name in the UK, and the workers will be concerned that you are smuggling up to the regime that is threatening their families.

Yet something must be done. This year, The Times and NatWest are asking students to come up with their own solutions. The competition is open to all, and encyclopedic knowledge of business offers no advantage because entries will be marked on reasoning and moral judgment rather than technical knowledge. The entries, which should be kept to 1,000 words, will be reduced to a shortlist of six and the authors will be invited to discuss the ideas with a panel of judges chaired by Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest Group.

John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, and Patience Wheatcroft, Business & City Editor of The Times, will also be on the panel. Last year's winning entry was written by Owain Evans, who picked

up a brochure in his local NatWest bank while still a sixth former. The economics student, who had not studied business ethics, walked off with £3,000, while winning the same amount for his college.

The preceding year, the competition was won by Chris Ayres, then a Politics student at Hull University and now a business news reporter on The Times. He used the money to take a postgraduate journalism course and learn about business journalism.

Neither of the previous winners spent weeks pondering the right answers. Owain Evans said he spent a couple of days on research, and then two or three hours knocking out the essay.

Entry forms are available from NatWest branches or by writing to Room 217, 41 Lombard, London, EC2B. The closing date is February 27.

FRASER NELSON



JANET BUSH

Central banks move into the spotlight

Central bankers assume centre stage on both sides of the Atlantic today with publication of the Bank of England's quarterly *Inflation Report* and the conclusion of the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee.

It is tempting to argue that, if the Bank decided it was safe to raise interest rates last week despite stock market wobbles, the Fed may feel the same way. After all, there is nobody more aware than Alan Greenspan of the deflationary impact of a large stock market correction. It was, of course, he who presided over the monetary policy loosening that followed the 1987 crash and the subsequent surge in rate rises in the pipeline.

It is difficult to call, not least because sterling's appreciation has not had its normal economic effects. Exports have been remarkably resilient. It is hard for the CBI to know about higher rates given, for example, October's purchasing managers' survey, which showed manufacturing activity rising to its highest level for six months and the first increase in export volumes since June. Neither has the pound worked its usual magic on inflation as lower producer prices feed through to keener pricing on the high street. This week's producer price figures looked benign, yesterday's retail prices were disappointing. If the pound is neither crippling exporters, nor exerting downward pressure on prices, the MPC may stand in the way of more rate rises to rein back consumers.

Nevertheless, there are good reasons to think that an American rate rise at this juncture would be a far riskier proposition than the British monetary tightening of last week, which pushed sterling touch higher but caused not a murmur elsewhere in the world economy. A rise in US rates could have much more far-reaching consequences, not least in Hong Kong and those economies in Latin America that have invested so much faith in the credibility conferred by maintaining currency pegs against the dollar.

The Fed does not want to trigger another fall in the stock markets or currencies of these emerging markets. Latin America, America's economic backyard, has already caught the selling contagion from the Far East.

Interest rates have risen and they would avoid pushing up sterling to the potential detriment of business. The economy may well slow healthily of its own accord, but if it doesn't, fiscal policy ought to be on the agenda as another weapon in the macroeconomic armoury.

By convention, the Bank does not comment on fiscal policy, although there are now influential voices within the Bank arguing that it should. Fiscal and monetary policy ought to be looked at together, despite the institutional separation of responsibilities now established between the Bank and the Treasury. The whole burden of managing the macroeconomy ought not to fall on the MPC.

Making an escape from high, long-term unemployment

David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, will tomorrow launch the Government's Welfare to Work project in the London Borough of Lambeth. Philip Bassett, The Times Industrial Editor, sees some potential prototypes in action.

Today we came out and started work. Started work on a real job." With astonishment in his voice, this is Martin Davies, an ex-steelworker. Now, at 37, he sits in a dusty shed, eating his lunchtime sandwiches in his first week as a member of what will be the Government's Welfare to Work environmental taskforce.

Keith Faulkner, an ex-miner, is squatting next to him by the recreation ground in the village of Klinhurst, South Yorkshire, that once had a mine and a steelworks. Both have been unemployed for years. Mr Faulkner says: "We've got the chance to do us own village up, and look after us own place."

The Government will today announce the latest fall in unemployment, and tomorrow David Blunkett, Employment Secretary, will be in Lambeth, south London, to launch Labour's new welfare to work programme in one of its 12 pilot areas. The £3.5 billion programme, funded by the windfall tax on the privatised utilities, aims to help an unspecified number of the long-term adult unemployed and 250,000 young people, aged 18 to 24, who have been out of work for at least six months. It will take them off benefit and into one of four options: a job, with a £60 a week subsidy for the employer; full-time education and training; work with the voluntary sector; or work on the environmental taskforce. There will be no fifth option of remaining on benefit.

The ten Klinhurst trainees think that is hard. Tracy Bennett, 18, has tried office work, hairdressing and other jobs. "No benefit is pretty tough. It's not necessary," she argues. Under the programme they are on, run by Groundwork, an environmental partnership, the trainees get £120 a week. They feel they are contributing to their village. They have the status of being in work – and are often the only people in



On the banks of the Tyne, apprentices are being taken on by a company training young people for Swan Hunter and other firms

their families earning a wage.

Their families earning a wage.

Rotherham." Chris Mallender, Rotherham council's assistant chief executive, says: "The problem is that we have not yet developed an economy here in a way that creates alternative options to coal and steel."

But they are trying. Rotherham's QMAT Programme Centre is, according to Peter Little, the Government's Employment Service

ployers a job subsidy of £120 a week for six months. Jane Whealhouse, who runs the programme, says 249 local people are still in jobs it provided since its launch last year.

Ann Rocliffe of Beechcliffe, a local firm, says: "Without the wage subsidy we would not have been able to train our staff as we have."

But the leader of one Tec

of local organisations now deciding whether they should take part in something with such potential problems.

Andrew Smith, Employment Minister, says: "We are on course. There is an enormous amount of very energetic commitment to the new deal going on – a number of organisations, including private sector firms, coming together to make a success of it."

Evidence from business seems to confirm that. Two thirds of companies polled by the Confederation of British Industry supported the Government's use of additional tax revenues to help the long-term unemployed. Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, said yesterday: "Business is supporting the Government's Welfare to Work initiative."

Some business is not waiting for the Government's programme. On the banks of the Tyne, apprentices are being taken on by Tyneside Maritime and Engineering, which trains young people – 80 so far – for the Swan Hunter shipyard and other firms.

Barry Johnson, managing director of A&P, the Wallsend shipyards, says: "The idea of TME is that we train for the river so that people are flexible and not just suited for one company." A&P's yards are buzzing. A roll-on, roll-off ferry is being converted to a floating casino destined for the coast off Florida and young

district manager, a blueprint for the new deal's "gateway" element, which will sift unemployed people into one of the four options as well as offering help with job application techniques and remedial reading and writing.

Equally, the local training and enterprise council and chamber of commerce run a successful direct recruitment programme, which offers em

talks of real fears about the outcome of the new deal programme of unpreparedness of the inadequacy of the Employment Service to run it; of worries about the possible creaming off of funds by private sector firms moving into lead positions within it; of the potential for fraud; of government officials caring about numbers rather than the quality of the programme;

The trouble was that word had gone out at the breakfast briefing that he didn't want to be named. His crew were bemused. His office then blamed confusion at the Birmingham conference, insisting he put out no such ban.

● SOUNDS like a lucky escape to me, but a business conference is somewhat miffed with a government refusal to field any ministers this week to talk to them about the euro.

The UK 200 Group, which consists of accountants working for small and medium-sized businesses, says the DTI and Treasury seem too tied up with the CBI. Instead, they have lined up Bill Robinson of London Economics, a Eurosceptic and former adviser to Norman Lamont, and David Heathcoat-Amory, Shadow Treasury Secretary and even less fond of the euro. Nothing like a balanced view.

Crossed wires

JOHN BIRT'S vision of a non-stop, interactive media future came unstuck yesterday when the BBC chief was blanked off the screens at the Confederation of British Industry. My spies tell me Birt spoke in raptures, if, indeed, a Dalek can sound rapturous, about the wonders of digital TV and the coming multi-media world.

● IT HAD to happen. A British Airways 747-400 was on the Singapore route, displaying the infamous new "aboriginal" logo. After several weeks a local air traffic controller pointed to the new squiggles

on the tailfin and asked the captain, dirily just why the words "heart attack" were displayed there in Chinese ideograms. I am told BA had to take the craft in for a repaint.

● We call him RPI as we can never get him to stay down

Taylor made

A LIGHT-HEARTED quiz for our readers. Which bank is taking out full-page advertisements giving warning that the single European currency is planned to start in less than 300 working days. We'll make sure you don't get left behind?

And, the chief executive of which bank said, on March 26: "Britain should not go into EMU in the foreseeable future. European politicians should have the courage either



THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

on the tailfin and asked the captain, dirily just why the words "heart attack" were displayed there in Chinese ideograms. I am told BA had to take the craft in for a repaint.

Wanted

ARE you vaguely left of centre, a clever money-man and keen on lost causes? I have just the job for you. The Liberal Democrats are head-hunting for a new chief executive to manage the finances and administrative and personnel functions.

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Analysts cast shadow over increased GA profits

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

STRONG sales of life and pensions products provided a boost for General Accident's profits but failed to lift its share price yesterday as analysts gave a warning that there are tough times ahead for UK composites.

GA's shares tumbled 22p to 966p, while those in fellow insurer Commercial Union dropped 17p to 808p. This was despite a 23 per cent increase in GA's nine-month profits to a record £124 million (£18 million) and an increase in pre-tax profits from £311 million to £354 million, meeting analysts' targets.

Operating earnings per share were 33.3p for the period (44p) and the strength of sterling knocked £9 million off operating profits. Much of the

growth came from what Philip Twyman, group executive director of finance, called the "windfall effect".

Mr Twyman said that anecdotal evidence suggested that a large number of people used the windfall bonuses they received from building society conversions to buy a single premium savings product.

This had led to a 48 per cent increase in GA Life's core investment product, the Portfolio Bond, which had attracted £547 million in the nine-month period.

GA's £195 million acquisition of Provident Mutual in September 1995 had helped to increased profit from long-term business 26 per cent in the nine months, from £77 million to £97 million.

Although the market reacted negatively to comments in the composite's results about increased competition and attempts to put up premium rates, Steven Bird, insurance analyst at Merrill Lynch, is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £502 million (£421 million).

GA was less optimistic about prospects for personal motor and household insurance. Mr Twyman said: "We are selectively putting premium rates up and are prepared to lose business rather than follow the market down."

In the UK, GA's personal lines business posted underwriting profits of £15 million, down from £30 million a year earlier, while the personal motor account's underwriting deficit widened to £27 million, from £10 million.

The United States underwriting deficit in sterling terms over the nine months decreased from £96 million last time to £65 million.

Tempus, page 30

Ladbroke wins Cairo casino deal

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, has won a concession to run the casino at the Nile Hilton in Cairo in competition with several other international gaming companies (Dominic Walsh writes).

The casino is understood to have 15 gaming tables and 18 slot machines aimed at international high-rolling gamblers. It is scheduled to reopens next month after extensive refurbishment.

Analysts welcomed the deal as further evidence of Ladbroke's international gaming ambitions. It has also pitched for five casino licences in South Africa.



Brian Taylor, chief executive of Wardle Storeys, which overcame adverse trading conditions and the strong pound

Wardle Storeys defies elements

BY MARTIN BARROW

WARDLE STOREYS, the parachutes and inflatable boats company, lifted pre-tax profits to £12.5 million from £10.5 million in the year to the end of August, in spite of difficult trading conditions in Europe and the adverse impact of the strong pound.

Profits from the inflatable systems division rose 39.4 per

cent to £2.5 million on sales that increased 35.6 per cent to £30.1 million. The division will benefit further from the £12.5 million acquisition of Dunlop Beaufort from BTR Industries, which was completed in August.

A third division, airborne systems, held profits unchanged at £3 million on sales that fell to £21.7 million from

£24 million. The division suffered a setback in America when work on the US Defence Department's advanced tactical parachute system went elsewhere.

The total dividend at Wardle Storeys, where Brian Taylor is chief executive, rises 8 per cent to 20.5p a share, for a 14p final, payable from earnings of 32.6p (27.2p).

Iraqi troubles may benefit Umeco

BY ADAM JONES

THE Ministry of Defence may ask for the production of aircraft refuelling units to be accelerated in response to the instability in Iraq.

Umeco, which makes the land-based vehicles, said yesterday that the ministry had asked about the possibility of speeding up their manufacture earlier this week.

Clive Snowdon, chief executive, said the company had a number of orders from the MoD for new and refurbished

refuellers, but could not say how many. The MoD would not comment on "speculation" over its production schedules.

Brian McGowan, chairman, said Umeco has record order books for the second half.

Umeco announced a doubling in pre-tax profits from an interim figure of £1 million in 1996 to £2.1 million in the six months to September 30. The figure includes a maiden contribution from GRP Material Supplies, bought in May,

where operating profits were £700,000. Umeco's aerospace components distribution business recorded a 60 per cent rise in operating profits. Turnover increased 77 per cent to £22.8 million. An interim dividend of 2.1p (1.8p) will be paid on February 12.

Umeco's purchase of MedLab International, a distributor of minerals to the aerospace and petroleum industries, for £1.07 million cash left gearing at about 10 per cent.

McGowan: record orders

Woolwich flotation chief quits

WOOLWICH, the former building society turned bank, yesterday announced the resignation of the director who managed its £3 billion stock market flotation (Richard Miles writes).

The bank said that Peter Burton, 46, director of group resources, had resigned for personal reasons after completing several major projects during ten years of service with the group.

His departure, described by the Woolwich as amicable, comes on the eve of a management restructuring that will effectively see his board position disappear and his responsibilities reallocated.

Mr Burton said: "The time is now right to look to new challenges." He is understood to have a new job lined up, but he is unwilling to disclose its nature. He will leave on December 17.

FirstBus set to take 51% airport stake

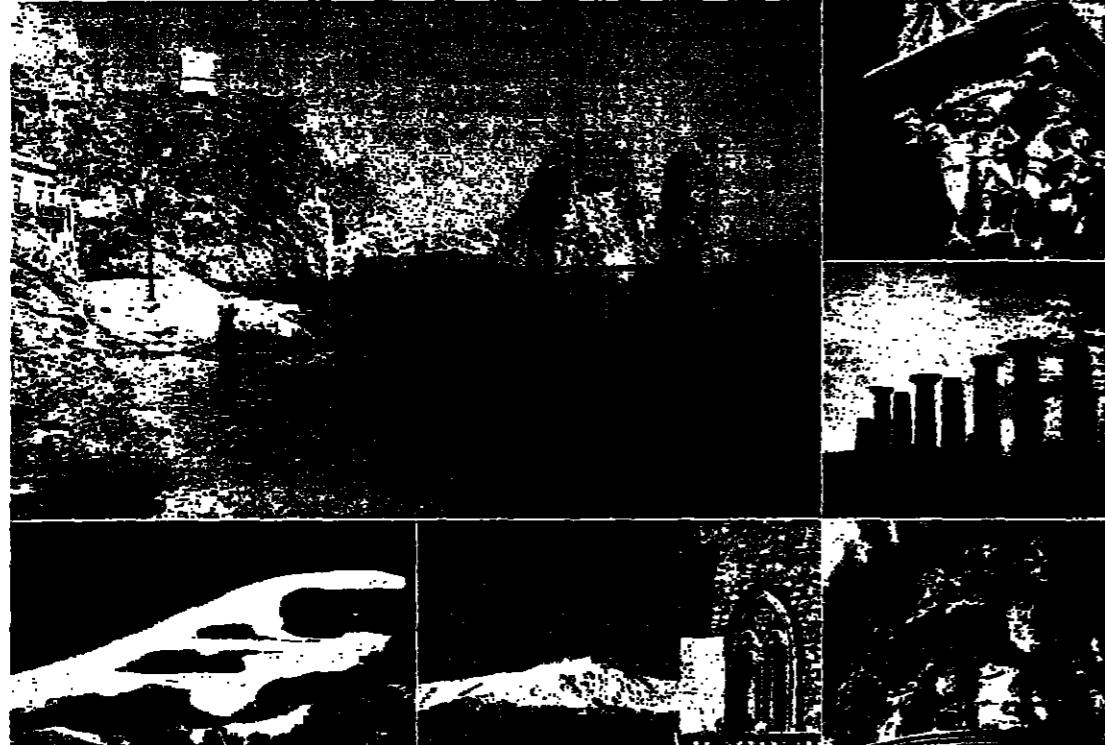
FIRSTBUS, the bus operator, is looking to the skies by taking a controlling stake in Bristol International Airport. It has been chosen as preferred buyer of a 51 per cent stake in the airport, the thirteenth-largest in the UK, by Bristol City Council, which will retain a 49 per cent interest.

Bristol International serves 1.5 million passengers a year. The council has plans to build a new terminal to increase capacity from 1.8 million to three million passengers a year. Included in the plans is the installation of all-weather landing instrumentation and a new diversion on the nearby A38 road.

In the year to April, Bristol International earned pre-tax profits of £5 million on turnover of £25.5 million.

Tempus, page 30

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NOTICE TO

ROUNDUP

dips in spite of organic growth

Group holding group based in the Republic of Ireland, strong organic growth had been achieved in the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits fell nearly 20 per cent to £10.8 million, from £15.6 million. Group shares for the previous period benefited from a £14.6 million gain. Underlying profit rose to £30.17 million, from £27.8 million. earnings were £0.15p a share (10.15p) and the dividend increased to 15.52p from 13.45p. Jim O'Leary, chairman and chief executive, said DCC's outcome for the year as a whole.

takes BSM wheel

esterday spent more than £25 million on shares of BSM, the driving school group. The consortium bought 14.8 million shares in BSM in the offer, lifting its interest to 53 per cent. The offer price for the shares, the same as the offer price of £54 million bid unveiled last Friday. The BSM's 125 branches and 1,928 franchised members to the RAC, best known for its roadside legal services to motorists.

es move lifts Bett

es rose 22p to 160p yesterday after the group and commercial property group announced between 173p and 120p this year. The group in Scotland, reported pre-tax profits up 31 per cent for the year to August 31, though earnings are unchanged at 34.00p a share, as against 33.70p a share. Total dividend is 6.75p a share.

head Mann up

head Mann rose 13p to a high of 171p after recruitment company reported a 42 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.58 million for the six months to 30 March, when the shares were offered at 13p. The chairman said assignments in all business areas significantly, particularly information technology. Interim earnings rose 25 per cent. The interim dividend is 3p a share.

of warning

Industrial Control, the electrical company, is 20p after the company said that it expects to losses in the first half that ends this month. It expects a significant improvement in the second half, the chairman, said at the annual meeting. It was necessary to review certain accounts and will require a number of provisions in the course of the half-year financial statement to be announced when appropriate.

buys in Norway

newspaper group has bought Code, a storage, transcription and transfer firm in Norway, from P&S Data Management, and has also bought off its shares in a further a smaller transaction. Clegg & Shipping's Management. The total cost was the same as the original purchase, a total of 10 million. The price will reflect the book value of the net assets.

s in Thailand

TEFCOM yesterday confirmed plans to sell shares in Thailand to Caltex Oil Ltd, which by Texaco and Chevron, to an unquoted local oilman, which will retain 40 per cent and increase its network in Thailand to 100. BP said that it was consolidating its international and expand other business units and operations, at about 100,000 employees worldwide.

Lusty sales rise

The food distribution company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, has risen from £1.2 million to £1.5 million over the last two years. An interim dividend of 10 pence per share, taking the total dividend for the year to 20 pence per share, was paid yesterday. The chairman said that the company had been able to increase its profit per share by 10 per cent, and that it had undertaken a programme of better quality.

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Salary around £15,500
Please telephone 0171 821 5785 for written particulars.
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Administrative Assistants
Part-time

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hergle

LONDON

ANGELS AND DEMONS The smitten Boris Yeltsin plays the role of Adam and his first wife Leah. Rebecca West directs Simon Thorp and Emma Cather in a production with music in a style where Jewish Klezmer meets jazz. Tricycle Theatre, 100a High Road, NW3 2LY. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 7pm, Sun mat. Sat, Sun mat, Wed, 8pm and Sun, 4pm. £5.

MOZART ON STRADS This gala concert held in joint aid of the Royal Academy of Music and The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital offers a unique opportunity to hear the sublime sound of Mozart played on Stradivari string instruments held in the RAM's collection. Sir Colin Davis conducts the RAM String Orchestra and Chorus. Soloists include Sarah Vergezov and Yun Bushini. Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 0171-960 4242. Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

SCHEURER'S CONCERT The much-loved conductor and amateur bits are among the noted performers joining up for a performance of Schubert's glorious *String Quintet*. The programme also features an arrangement for strings and piano by Shostakovich's Symphony No 15. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 0171-658 6631. Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

ELSEWHERE Birmingham: Piatas Zukerman doubles as violin soloist and conductor in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concert tonight. On the

programme are Egger's *Serenade for Strings*, Mozart's Violin Concerto in A and Brahms' *Double Phantasy* No 2. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire 0121-212 3333. Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

BRAFORD Scottish Opera offers audiences here in a chamber setting three of the works from the company's 1997/98 season. On the programme tonight and Friday is *Rigoletto*, Verdi's dark tale of power and corruption, followed by Britten's *Peter Grimes* with Peter Grimes and Peter Grimes. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Alhambra Theatre, Morley Street 01274 752001. Performances at 7.30pm. £5.

CARDIFF The Ramble Dance Company stage stops for four nights in the city's new arts centre. The year's number, *Brown Butter One*, by Glenn Willowes, to the triple bill originally advertised. The other three are *Waltz* by John Neumeier, *Four for Angels* by Alvin Ailey and *Reveries from Handel's Concerto Grossi*. New Theatre, Park Place 01222 36337. Tonight, 8pm. £5. £3.50.

LIVERPOOL An evening of string quartet music joins the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme featuring Mozart's *Haydn Symphony*, Schenker's *String Quartet No 4* and Beethoven's *Symphony No 9*. Peter Alford conducts. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street 0151-705 3784. Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. £5.

THE BOYS IN THE BAND Mart Crowley's ground-breaking gay play from 1968 now concerns of a period piece with its "gay means witty but wretched" message. Transfer from the West End's Vaudeville Theatre to the Almeida. The Almeida, WC2 0171-419 2003. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thur and Sat, 3pm.

A DELICATE BALANCE Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome return of Abbie's play about marriage, separation and the search for peace. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister. Anthony Page directs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 0171-824 2000. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ELECTRA Zoe Wanamaker a powerful and poignant heroine in David Leveaux's production from Chichester. Marjorie Yates plays Clytemnestra. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 0171-730 1232. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Tues, Wed, Sat and Sun, 4pm. Until December 5.

GUYS AND DOLLS The Oliver returns to its original shape for the reveal of Richard Eyre's revival. Exhilarating stuff. National (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 0171-928 2253. Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm; mat. tomorrow and Sun, 8pm. In rep.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Return of Peter Hall's encyclopedic production, brimful of deceptions. Stirling Martin stars as Simon Ward, and Dame Judi Dench as Mrs. Alvington. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-495 5051. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

STEPPING OUT Musical version of Richard Harts' hit play (music and

lyrics by Dennis King and Mary Stewart David). Julia Mckenzie directs. LC Robinson and her team of hopeful performers. Old Vic, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 0171-369 1730. Mon-Sat, 8pm; Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

TALES MY LOVER TOLD ME New musical comedy written and directed by Chris Burgess; music by Sarah Travis, about three women in their early middle years struggling to make sense of their lives. At King's Head, Upper St, N1 0171-226 1916. Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE Powerful playing by Desmond Barrit as Arthur Miller's long-suffering destroyed by his wife's infidelity for his new role. Royal Court, Sloane Street, Greenwich, Cromer Hill, SE10 0181-869 7755. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2pm. Until November 23.

Woyzeck Sarah Kane's gripping production of Brecht's tragedy of a common man. Raveling performances by Michael Shaeffer and Michael Field. The Old Vic, Prince of Wales Rd, Pimlico, W1 0171-229 0705. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. November 22.

FACE-OFF (18+) FBI agent John Travolta and terrorist Nicolas Cage swap identities. Outrageous thriller that never knows when to stop. Director: John Woo. ABC Television Cr Rd 0171-835 0400. Mon-Sat 9pm. £2.50. Greenroom 0181-235 0005. Odysseus: Camelot 0181-315 4255. Kensington 0181-315 4214. Leicester Sq 0181-315 4214. Merthyr 0181-315 4220. St. Martin's 0181-315 4220. Ribby 0171-237 2121. UCI Whitley 0180 088990. Virgin: Chelsea 0180 088990. Virgin: Fulham Rd 0171-370 2638. Haymarket 0171-939 1527. Warner 0171-437 4343.

NEW RELEASES

CINEMA GUIDE

GEORGE BROWN'S ASSESSMENT of films in London and (where possible) on releases across the country

Director, Anthony Waller. **Orchestra**, London Philharmonic 0181-315 4255. **Kingsmen**, 0181-315 4214. **Marble Arch**, 0181-315 4216. **Streets Cottages**, 0181-315 4200. **UCI Whitley**, 0180 088990. **Virgin Treadaway**, 0181-493 3200. **Warner**, 0171-437 4343.

CAROLEN'S (15+) Student movie made up to scratch. Award but not much. **CHARLES**, with Alan Alda, Gay Pearce and Danny Devito. Director: Curtis Hanson. **CHASPIEL** (17+) **CHASPIEL**, 0171-727 4705. **CHOCOLATE CANDY TEAM** (18+) 0181-315 4255. **Kensington** (0181-315 4214). **Marble Arch** 0181-315 4220. **Streets Cottages** 0181-315 4200. **UCI Whitley**, 0180 088990. **Virgin: Fulham Rd** 0171-370 2638. **Haymarket** 0171-939 1527. **Warner** 0171-437 4343.

A play too small for its boost



Stuart McQuarrie (Charlie), Shirley Anderson (Mandy) and Alison Peebles (Anne) in Chris Hannan's disappointing black comedy, *Shining Souls*

No point in getting up early

ONCE UPON a time there was a little boy called Murdo, who felt that he was too big for childish things such as working for a living, and decided to sleep in late. So late, in fact, that the days rolled into each other, and Murdo treated his bed as both playpen and office, holding court to a stream of visitors while his mummy grew more and more exasperated. Trouble is, in Iain Crichton Smith's new play for the Traverse, baby Murdo is pushing 40, still living at home, waited on hand and foot by Mama, and really ought to have dealt with his adolescent angst by now.

It is neither big nor clever, and certainly not original, as

mother, brother and wife/lover: all make clear.

Murdo has previously struggled to capture its live sound on record, but the new single, *Nazilite*, about a guerrilla uprising by Bengal peasants, is a driving piece of dubbed-up noise that could bring its first chart success.

Master D, the 19-year-old rapper who fronts the band, has been likened to an Asian Johnny Rotten. A fairer comparison might be with the Clash, for it is difficult to think of a band that has sounded quite so raw, hungry and plain dangerous since the days of *White Riot*.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

tween wilful nihilism, ideologies of every hue and plain old real life, there is a gentle, self-deprecating charm at play, which one cannot help but be wooed by. Much of this is down to the understated playing in Philip Howard's wide open production, which sees Iain Macrae's Murdo make the transition from spoilt but desperately seeking something daydream unbelieveable to fully fledged grown-up in the face of loss.

The play's pivotal moment comes as Iona Carstairs's Judith finally knocks Murdo into domestic shape, when Murdo realises that what he has been looking for is standing less than two feet away from him. Almost wordless, the scene is played to Anna Maria's gorgeous live folk score and captures the full essence of lost boys yearning after surrogate mummies. And let's face it, they still walk among us. OK, it is embedded with old-time chauvinism, but Crichton Smith never lets us lose sight of Murdo's full ridiculousness and, as bed-time stories go, you'll not off with a smile on your face. As for Murdo and Judith, they live happily ever after. Maybe.

NEIL COOPER

Let the London festivities commence

JAZZ

New World A-Comin'

Queen Elizabeth Hall

highlighted the contrasts in the writing for the horns.

Conductor Robert Ziegler drew some robust playing from the strings in a work originally commissioned by the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Earlier, the mini-concerto *New World A-Comin'* came full of Ellington keyboard touches supplied by American pianist Fred Hersch. The programme also put Ellington in context. Anthony Davis's percussion-led *Notes from the Underground* gave a modernist slant on the Afro-American tradition. Wilhelm Grosz's *Afrika Songs* provided well-known true jazzers such as Alan Barnes — negated the slalom-like tempo changes and

THE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Harlem Air Shaft

Tues 17-21 Nov 7.30pm

This laudably underground opening night of the London Oris Jazz Festival was more event than concert, designed to show off a rich seam of talent that runs from Brick Lane to Bradford via Bengal and Batachistan. Downstairs in the bar area, DJs from the innovative record label Uncut played some storming tablature break-beats. Inside the hall, Ninih Sawmey and his band performed a jazzy set fusing rap and Indian traditional singing.

But Asian Foundation judged the mood better with their loud and brash agit-pop, taking different elements from East and West to produce something dynamic and organic, particularly on *Journey*, introduced as "a song for our

POP

The Big Picture

Festival Hall

ancestors", and a live remix of *Earth* by the late Nasir Fath.

The band has previously struggled to capture its live sound on record, but the new single, *Nazilite*, about a guerrilla uprising by Bengal peasants, is a driving piece of dubbed-up noise that could bring its first chart success.

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The dark side of the croon

As *Chicago* opens in the West End.

Richard Morrison looks at musicals that present life as nasty, brutish and short

In my misspent youth I played the piano in a small but perfectly deformed staging of the musical *Chicago*. One night the trumpet player sidled up. He was a hardboiled sort of chap, so I was startled when he said: "This piece really upsets me."

"You cannot be serious," I replied. "It goes like a rocket. It's got the catchiest tunes to come from Broadway since *Guys and Dolls*. It has dramatic verve, its sardonic digs at American justice are doubtless unfair but hilarious. And I cannot help noticing that the ladies on stage have almost no clothes on. For my money, this adds up to a musical that is somewhat more gripping than *Mary Poppins*."

"What you say is true," the trumpet player conceded. "But I have one big problem. I don't like a single character on stage. And I don't like the story. It's sordid and cynical from start to finish."

He had a point. At least, he almost had a point, which is not set for a brass player. There is one guy in *Chicago*: poor Amos, hoodwinked husband of the scheming murderer Roxie. But even he is likable he's too patetic.

As for the rest, well, there's the slyster lawyer whose main concern is itself-publicity; and the six merry murderers, all busy concocting so stories to feed to the gullible press; and the grotesque woman jailor who trades perks for lesbian favours; and the two cold-blooded "tramps", who plan to use their own murder trials to launch showbiz careers. And there is a plot that equates American courts with seedy vaudevilles, in which there are no defendants, lawyers and judges — only "acts" strutting their stuff. Yes, *Chicago* is pretty sour.

It was written by Bob Fosse, John Kander and Fred Ebb in 1975, and based on a much older play — a 1920s drama penned by a Chicago reporter after she had covered two sensational murder trials in which the entire cast produced nooses and

the female defendants had been acquitted despite damning evidence. But *Chicago* won't seem like a period piece when it is revived next week in the West End. In an age of televised trials and slick celebrity lawyers, cynicism about the law hasn't exactly gone away. And with £2 million of bookings already taken for the show, starring leggy Ute Lemper and fatty Ruthie Henshall, *Chicago* could be the smash hit of the winter.

What, though, of my trumpet-player's objections? Is it a brilliant show that leaves a nasty taste? Do characters so lacking in a moral dimension engage our empathy? Do we buy this utterly Machiavellian view of humanity? In *Chicago* it does seem at times as if Iago, Lady Macbeth and Richard III have all met in a photo opportunity concocted by Max Clifford.

Yet there is a long tradition of musicals that walk on the seamy side. That is often forgotten. The word "musical" usually evokes quasi-operettas of the Lloyd Webber or Boublil/Schonberg school, or inane fables cooked up to display Astaire's footwork or the homespun Americana rolled out by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

But there is an alternative tradition which derives its power from the very incongruity of mixing lurid material — "murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery", to quote *Chicago's* opening line — with razzle-dazzle tunes. Far from diminishing the impact of the grisly plots, the buoyant music sharpens the theatrical shock.

How far back does this tradition go? Right back to the musical's origins. It is present, for instance, in John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*, written in the 18th century as a black satire on sleaze, but using the jolliest "pop tunes" of the period. Remember the staging a few years ago by David Freeman, in which the entire cast produced nooses and



The murder trial presented as vaudeville: Ruthie Henshall, Henry Goodman and the chorus of newspaper reporters in the new West End production of *Chicago*

proceeded to simulate mass suicide as the curtain fell? You don't get that in *The Sound of Music*.

A sense of that macabre certainly runs through Gilbert and Sullivan. Indeed, Gilbert constructed *The Mikado* almost entirely from taste-free jokes about execution, self-decapitation and torture — to which Sullivan supplied tunes of radiant perkiness. And it was the dominant thread of the musicals written in 1920s Berlin by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Their *Threepenny Opera*, of course, was a reworking of *The Beggar's Opera* with souped-up sex and violence. In turn it, too, became a model — for the piece that Kander and Ebb

wrote prior to *Chicago*: the nihilistic but stunning *Cabaret*.

These musicals craftily frame serious subjects in an ostensibly lowbrow showbiz format. In *Chicago* the legal system is presented as vaudeville; in *Cabaret* the rise of Hitler is mirrored in a nightclub. But the prize for audacity here must go to Ioan Littlewood, who presented the entire First World War to devastating effect as a music-hall show in *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

Clearly the drama critics' perennial moan — "nothing but sugary musicals around these days" — is not quite accurate. Musicals are as numerous as ever, but not all are sugary. I saw a staging of Sond-

heim's *Sweeney Todd* in which the blood spurting from the severed jugular of the demon barber's ill-fated customer was so realistic that a man in the front row screamed. The same author's *Assassins* — a charmingly lyrical catalogue of gentlemen who have killed, or tried to kill, American presidents — didn't have this physicality, but it did strike many Americans as bordering on treason.

Some lucky audiences in Massachusetts have seen the first "IRA musical", a preposterous yarn called *Brimstone* that ends with a choreographed shootout between a Bonnie-and-Clyde duo of terrorists and the nasty "British occupying

forces". The peace process will need to be somewhat more advanced before we see that in the West End. But it is possible that Paul Simon's first Broadway musical, *The Capeman*, will be coming here soon, and that has stirred up a noisy protest in America by retelling the true story of a Puerto Rican gangster who killed two boys to death 40 years ago. *Shades of West Side Story*, there, of course.

As with the furore over the *IRA* Hindley portrait at the Royal Academy, the families of the victims have been alerted to the "outrage" of *The Capeman* by the ever-vigilant press. "Does Paul Simon think that murder is some-

thing to sing about?" one protest leader asked this week.

The answer is clearly yes. But then, so did Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Gershwin, Bernstein and every other theatre composer of genius. If you insist on a musical being glitz, escapist and as mushy as overboiled peas, then I believe *Starlight Express* is still doing excellent business at the Apollo Victoria. If you want something as sharp as a siletto, as brilliant as a diamond, as sour as a lemon and as intoxicating as bourbon, don't miss *Chicago*. Also, it doesn't have me on the piano this time round.

• *Chicago* is in preview at the Adelphi (071-344 0155), and opens on Tuesday

A profit without honour?

Allen Robertson
talks to the
critics' bête noire,
Derek Deane
of English
National Ballet

It is impossible to replace the inreplaceable. This explains why no one has been chosen to succeed Diana, Princess of Wales, as the patron of English National Ballet. It is also why Derek Deane's new staging of *The Nutcracker* is dedicated to her. Following its premiere in Southampton on Thursday, the production goes to Liverpool and Manchester before arriving at the London Coliseum on December 8, where opening night will begin with a specially commissioned film tribute to the Princess.

I keen dance fan all her life, some might even say a ballerina, marquée, the Princess became the company's patron in 1989. Deane, who has been artistic director since 1993, could not be more enthusiastic about the very real care the Princess showed for ENB. Nor is any secret that she played a pivotal role in securing sponsorship from Harrods for its new *Nutcracker*. "We can say that *The Nutcracker* was sponsored by the voice of the Princess of Wales," says Deane, referring to a crucial telephone call the Princess made on ENB's behalf.

Influential as Diana was in loosening those strings, however, money wasn't all she contributed. "She spent so much time with the dancers, which is something other patrons don't really do. This minute film is our way of letting people know about her life within dance, her love of the art form."

ENB's new *Nutcracker* is designed by Sue Blane, who also created the sets and costumes for Deane's *Alice in Wonderland*. She and Deane have opted to set *The Nutcracker* in 1997, rather than in some cosy Dickensian world. "Sue has created a modern look totally based on a classical line," Deane says. "I wanted to change period, I wanted to change the story. But what I did not want was the Spice Girls on pointe."

Deane is a notoriously hard



Derek Deane rehearses Tamara Rojo in *The Nutcracker*, ENB's 1997 Christmas show

worker. In the studio he fizzes and whizzes around his dancers like a gadfly, egging them on, shouting himself hoarse with encouragement. "I can be a tyrant," he says, "but only when I need to be, when I think people are being unprofessional, behaving badly or not doing their job. Because there are a lot of dancers out there who need jobs. If I have to be strict and demanding, then that is what I will be."

"I'm lucky to have the kind of character that doesn't get upset by people not liking me. I don't want anybody to hate me. I don't want anybody to spit at me, but I will not compromise."

Despite all the demands on him as the company's director, Deane regularly adds to his load the responsibility of staging ballets for ENB because he knows he doesn't have to pay himself an extra salary for doing so. "I can save the company £30,000 to £40,000 by doing this myself. However, that's not the reason why I do it. I do it because I feel it's a part of my job to be creative. I have always known that I am not a MacMillan, an Ashton, a Balanchine. I am not a unique talent in any way

as far as choreography is concerned. But I do have a great sense of theatre and of production values. Choreographically, I think I am a very good showman."

The box office figures prove that. Last summer's *Swan Lake* in the round at the Albert Hall played to 90 per cent capacity — some 50,000 people saw Deane's production during its two-week run. Deane will be creating a new version of *Romeo and Juliet* for the Albert Hall next June. But, despite his production's popularity, the critics have had few kind words for his work.

"Of course it would be nice to get good reviews and to have those people value your work," Deane says, "but I don't believe I'm lowering the quality of ballet by doing what I'm doing. If I didn't have to worry about box office, I might choose different subjects but I don't feel the quality of the work would be different."

I'm not sitting here saying this is a masterpiece, how dare they criticise it. But if people are too smoky, if people have no room for change and are not open-minded enough to enjoy and find value in something a bit different, well,

that's their problem. My artistic level may be too commercial, too populist for some critics. If they want to get that analytically retentive about fine, but it is not my bag to keep repeating the past.

I don't necessarily think big and I had a ball at the Albert Hall. We all did. It created enormous excitement in the dancers. *Swan Lake* is going to Australia and Japan in 1999 — to say nothing of performing another season at the Albert Hall."

First, though, comes *The Nutcracker*, with an opening night cast headed by Lucia Lacarra, a Spaniard who has been dancing in Marseilles, and Robert Tewsey, an Englishman based in Stuttgart. Other guests will come from Brazil, Milan, New York and Amsterdam.

"Robert's career has been outside this country, but he is English, thank God," Deane says. "I'm always having my face slapped, and on some levels quite rightly so, for not employing more English dancers. Well, I would gladly employ English dancers if they were lined up outside the door and they would dance. But that luxury, that dream, has yet to be offered to me."

• *The Nutcracker* opens at the Mayflower, Southampton (0703 718111) on Thursday, and is at the London Coliseum (0171-632 8300) from Dec 8 to Jan 10.

CONCERTS: Rough-hewn Dvořák in Manchester; Australians in London

Sound reason for lack of heroics

Hallé/Skowronecki
Manchester

the questioning seriousness of the opening *Largo* from being undermined by the apparent "who cares?" attitude of the two quick movements that follow and the celebration of music-hall vulgarity that comes at the end. The answer, Skowronecki demonstrated, is to make no attempt to modify the character of the work at either extreme. Play it for all it is worth, with no lack of long-term patience on the one hand and no without taking virtuoso risks on the other, and the underlying ironies make themselves unmistakably clear.

GERALD LARNER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CASPAR BERRY

Age: 24

Profession: Writer and sometime director.



Wasn't he in *Byker Grove*? "I was going out with a girl who auditioned for it. I was the only boy there and the producer said 'Do you want to try out?' I'd acted in amateur dramatics so I said 'Yeah'. That was two years in total. Then I became a failed actor, a has-been at 18."

But he was writing all this time? "Not really. I'd written for theatre and I was writing music. But while I was doing *Byker Grove*, I made up my mind that I wanted to direct. In fact standing on the set on my first day I thought 'That is the job I want to do'. Two years later I wrote a short film and made it."

So how did he get to do *Stone in the Road*? "I wrote to about a hundred companies and got nowhere. It was an 18-year-old's script but I believed passionately in what I was saying. So I put the money from *Byker Grove* into it."

And that opened doors? "People don't give you the next step up in this business unless you have your calling-card. Richard Johns of Pilgrim Films here in Newcastle saw it and most of the history since then has been channelled through him. I'm really happy here."

How did he get to make commercials shown on Tyne-Tees television? "Richard's great gift to me is that he doesn't stand on experience. He just says: 'You're hungry, I think you can do it, here's a 35mm commercial'. He did just the same with *Downtime*. You can do it, write us a feature film."

What's *Downtime* about? "It's a love story action movie in which I tried to create what Spielberg is so good at: a real-world scenario fused with a filmic concept. I think British film is in the middle of a revolution. I've written four screenplays since."

When can we see *Downtime*? At the London Film Festival on November 22, or in the cinemas next February.

W. STEPHEN GILBERT

BARRY MILLINGTON

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Wigmore Hall

received for the composer's own arrangement for violin and string orchestra of Ravel's *Kaddish*, the first of the *Deux mélodies hébraïques*, draws effectively on spectral harmonics in the upper strings followed by no less unearthly timbres from cello and bass, to invoke the mood of mourning.

Tognetti's own arrangement for violin and string orchestra of Ravel's *Kaddish*, the first of the *Deux mélodies hébraïques*, draws effectively on spectral harmonics in the upper strings followed by no less unearthly timbres from cello and bass, to invoke the mood of mourning.

If the spark of inspiration was infrequent up to this point, after the interval any fatigue gave way to abandon, for an affecting account of Sculthorpe's *Lament* — a typically atmospheric response to the Australian landscape — and finally an invigorating performance of the *Souvenir de Florence*.

The electrifying end of the first movement drew applause, but there was even more passion to come in the remaining movements — a remento to treasure indeed.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Joint succession forbidden

Newham London Borough Council v Phillips
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe
Judgment October 30

An official form under section 89 of the Housing Act 1985 signed by two sisters to succeed their mother as secure tenants following her death and which was countersigned by the housing authority did not create a joint tenancy.

The statutory provisions did not permit joint succession and an agreement between the sisters before signing the form that one of them only should succeed operated to vest the tenancy in that sister alone.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Newham London Borough Council from the dismissal of its claim for possession of 72 Clarence Road, Canning Town, by Judge Henry in Bow County Court on November 1, 1996, on the ground that Josephine Phillips enjoyed a secure tenancy of the house under section 30 of the Housing Act 1980, now section 89 of the Housing Act 1985.

The four-bedroomed house had been let on a secure tenancy to Mrs Iris Phillips. She died on October 3, 1993.

Two of her daughters, Josephine

and Beryl, fulfilled the criteria set out in section 30 of the 1980 Act to succeed their mother as tenant. Following the death, there had been a family agreement that Josephine should be the successor.

On October 6, 1993, at the council's housing office both sisters signed a form headed: "To be signed by successor tenant". The form, that stated: "I am successor to the above-mentioned tenant under the provisions of section 30 of the Housing Act," was countersigned by a housing officer.

Asked whether she objected to Beryl's name being put on the rent book issued by the council, Josephine said she did not, providing it would not affect her own status as the successor tenant. Thereafter Josephine and Beryl lived in the house until 1993 when their relationship broke down.

Beryl then asked to be rehoused and, on advice from the council, she served a notice to quit on Josephine which purported to terminate the tenancy with effect from October 17, 1994. See *Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council v Monk* [1997] 1 AC 472.

The judge held that the notice to quit was invalid as Josephine had succeeded to her mother's tenancy as a sole tenant.

Miss Gillian Carrington for the

council: Miss Josephine Phillips in person.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that the council did not challenge the judge's finding that Josephine became the successor tenant by virtue of the family agreement shortly after her mother's death.

Its case was that it was entitled to possession because either (i) when the form was signed on October 6, 1993, Josephine surrendered by operation of law the tenancy she had succeeded to immediately following her mother's death and replaced it with a joint tenancy, or (ii) Josephine was estopped by her conduct on October 6, and subsequently from denying that she and Beryl were joint tenants.

Both parties accepted that as a matter of law the transmission of the tenancy under section 30 of the 1980 Act to the sisters as joint tenants was impossible; see *Dealer Properties Ltd v Brooks* [1985] 1 QB 542.

It was impossible to attribute to Josephine a surrender of her tenancy. Even if one regarded what was written in the document signed by the sisters as prima facie indicative of a willingness on the part of Josephine to be a joint successor tenant with Beryl, why should that lead to an inference of surrender and the grant of a fresh

tenancy rather than to the simple conclusion that Josephine alone remained the tenant and the inclusion of Beryl was of no effect?

Unless there was an act by Josephine pointing unequivocally to surrender by her of her tenancy by succession, no question of surrender by operation of law could arise. There was no provision in the rules for that.

Turning to the council's alternative argument that Josephine was estopped from denying that she and Beryl were joint tenants, nothing that occurred on and after October 6, 1993 could have had the effect of putting an end to the tenancy. There was no basis on which a joint tenancy by estoppel could be said to have arisen.

At best the council could argue for an estoppel preventing Josephine from denying the existence of such a tenancy. However it could not succeed in the absence of some evidence of detriment to the council and there was none.

Moreover, given the judge's findings, Josephine's conduct after October 6 did not give rise to a finding of an unequivocal representation by her that Beryl was a joint tenant.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Mr J. D. Smith, East Ham.

Tribunals' power to regulate procedure

Europell (Holdings) plc v Barker and Another
Before Mr Justice Morison, Lord Gladwin of Clew and Miss A. Mackie
Judgment November 3

An order made by an industrial tribunal that there should be a simultaneous exchange of witness statements by both parties of all witnesses on whom each party intended to rely and that there should be no further witnesses called at the hearing without the leave of the tribunal was within the tribunal's powers under rules 9 and 13(1) of the Rules of Procedure contained in Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations [SI 1993 No 2880].

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by the employers, Europell (Holdings) plc from an order made by an industrial tribunal sitting at Southampton on November 20, 1996, refusing a complaint of unfair dismissal and breach of contract by the employees, Mrs K. Barker and Ms G. Markman.

Rule 9 of the 1993 Rules provides:

"(1) The tribunal shall make such inquiries of persons appearing before it and witnesses as it considers

appropriate and shall otherwise conduct the hearing in such manner as it considers most appropriate for the clarification of the issues before it and generally to just handling of the proceedings."

"(2) Subject to paragraph (1), at the hearing of the originating application a party shall be entitled to give evidence, to call witnesses, to question any witness and to address the tribunal."

Rule 13 provides:

"(1) Subject to the provision of these rules, a tribunal may regulate its own procedure in the way the Southampton Industrial Tribunal had done."

Mr JUSTICE MORISON said that two questions were raised by counsel's argument:

1. What was the proper construction of the 1993 Rules and in particular rule 9(1)?

2. What was the sense of a so-called practice direction issued by the President of the Industrial Tribunals from which it seemed that the preparation of witness statements in advance of the hearing was regarded as a matter left to the parties' discretion and with which the tribunal's order was said to be inconsistent?

On the first issue, the appeal

tribunal approached the task of construction with a clear disposition in favour of the decision of the industrial tribunal. Case management by an industrial tribunal was critical to a fair, orderly, just and efficient hearing.

It would be regretable if the rules were so construed that industrial tribunals were not entitled to regulate their own procedure in the way the Southampton Industrial Tribunal had done.

Rule 13 provides:

"(1) Subject to the provision of these rules, a tribunal may regulate its own procedure in the way the Southampton Industrial Tribunal had done."

It seemed clear that a tribunal would be entitled to require a party to tell if the substance of the evidence to be given by a witness before he or she was called to give it.

In appropriate cases a tribunal could require a party to provide it with a written statement of that witness's evidence so that it could carry out its duty under rule 9(1), whether under the power to regulate its own procedure or under the power to make directions conferred by rule 10.

The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance.

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PROPERTY

No dissent reasons for arbitrator

Cargill International SA and Another v Sociedad Iberica de Molituracion SA and Others

Before Mr Justice Colman
Judgment August 12

An arbitrator who disagreed with the majority view was not entitled to insist on inserting his dissenting reasons before signing the award as required by the rules, when there was no provision in the rules for that.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on originating summons issued against each other by Cargill International SA and Sociedad Iberica de Molituracion SA (SIMSA), the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GFTA), Derek R. Marshall, Anthony G. Scott and Ronald J. Short on the other.

Sir Nicholas Lunn, QC and Mr Mark Hoyle for Cargill; Mr Murray Pickering, QC for SIMSA.

M.R. JUSTICE COLMAN said that GFTA, an important commodity association, provided arbitration facilities in London for parties from all over the world and was the arbitration forum selected by the contract between the parties should a dispute arise.

The arbitrations were two-tier arbitrations: there was a first tier conducted by three arbitrators, one to be appointed by each of the two parties to the dispute and the third to be appointed by GFTA; then there was a second tier or appeal stage which was conducted by way of a re-hearing before a board of appeal consisting of members appointed by GFTA.

Rule 3 of GFTA's rules provides: "(8) If an arbitrator dies, or refuses to act, or becomes incapable of acting, or fails to proceed with the arbitration, the party appointing such arbitrator shall forthwith appoint a substitute..."

Rule 7 provides: "(1) All awards of arbitration shall be written on an official form issued by the association and shall be signed by the sole arbitrator or by all members of the tribunal..."

"(2) The award shall state the arbitrators' reasons therefor and whether any sum awarded carries interest thereon..."

When a dispute arose between the parties to the sale contract each party appointed an arbitrator.

SIMSA appointed Mr Bridge; Cargill appointed Mr Scott; and GFTA appointed Mr Marshall.

Mr Scott and Mr Marshall had signed an award relating to the dispute but Mr Bridge had not because he wished to have inserted in the award his own reasons which were inconsistent with or different from the reasons of the other two arbitrators.

The other two arbitrators were unwilling to permit him to insert his own reasons into the award.

GFTA stated that rule 7(1) required the award to be signed by all members of the tribunal irrespective of whether or not one of the members was in full or part agreement with the final decision.

Cargill called on SIMSA to appoint a substitute arbitrator under rule 3(8) but SIMSA declined, asserting that the fact that an arbitrator refused to sign an award did not of itself constitute a refusal to act within rule 3(8).

Accordingly, GFTA, under rule 3(7) appointed Mr Short on behalf of SIMSA as a substitute arbitrator.

SIMSA now applied for a declaration that the appointment of Mr Short as arbitrator was invalid and that he had no jurisdiction to determine the dispute.

They argued that if an arbitrator wished to insert dissenting reasons into a first tier award, he should be entitled to do so and did not so requesting refuse to act or fail to proceed with the arbitration even if he was entitled to sign the award unless he was permitted to insert the reasons.

SIMSA said it was absolutely fundamental to an arbitrator's duty that he should be given the opportunity of expressing a dissenting view, in particular in a first tier arbitration as here, where the availability of that view on the hearing of an appeal might be of considerable importance and assistance.

His Lordship construed the rules. He said that rule 7(1) made it clear that all the members of the tribunal were to sign an arbitration award. Rule 7(2) made it clear that each award issued should state the arbitrators' reasons for that award.

In rule 7(2) it was instructive to observe that the provision was that the award should state the arbitrators' reasons therefor, that is to say that the award, which

Complaint fell outwith rules

Regina v General Medical Council, Ex parte Stewart and Others

A person whose complaint to the General Medical Council about a medical practitioner's professional conduct was unsupported by a statutory declaration or affidavit under rules 17, 20 and 48 of the General Medical Council Preliminary Proceedings Committee and Professional Conduct Committee (Procedure) Rules Order of Council [SI 1988 No 2255], and accordingly, he was not entitled to receive documentation relating to the

era by a legal or other representative.

HIS LORDSHIP said that for the purposes of those rules "complainant" meant the person whose complaint was being proceeded with.

That could not be the applicants first, because rule 6(2) provided that no complaint could proceed beyond consideration by the screening committee unless supported by statutory declaration or affidavit; and second, because the solicitor to the GMC made the formal complaint which resulted in the charges against the doctors.

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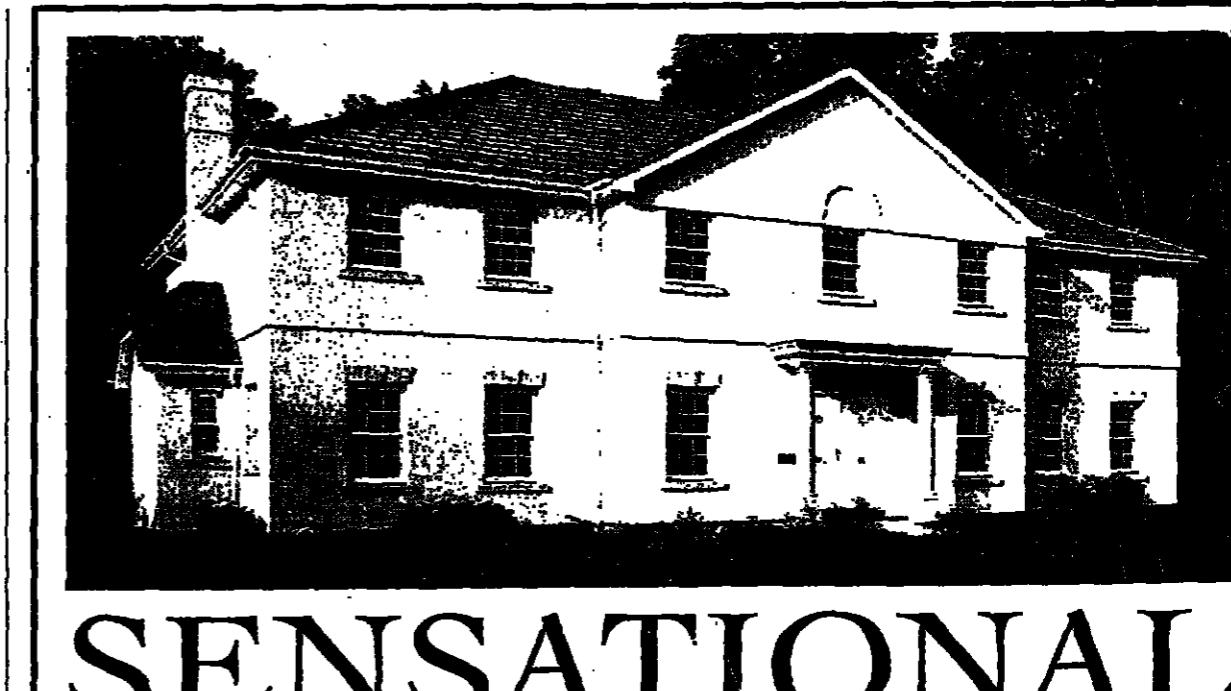
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RACING: DAVIES IN SPONSORSHIP ROW AT NICHOLSON'S BASE



Wise King, nearside, keeps Moon Devil at bay in the Seven Barrows Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Newbury

Dispute ruffles feathers at Jackdaws Castle

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

MEL DAVIES, the high-profile racehorse owner behind the recent unsuccessful attempt to set up a new racecourse in Wales, is being sued for £20,000 in a sponsorship dispute involving Jackdaws Castle, the training base of David Nicholson.

The disagreement concerns an unpaid sponsorship bill — and how many of the 108 horses trained by Nicholson were covered by a £50,000-a-year deal involving Faucts, a company distributing bathroom equipment which is run by Davies.

The Welshman, who owned Brambley Again, the former champion two-mile chaser, and has two horses in training with Nicholson, agreed to a £50,000 deal in March 1996 for Faucts to sponsor Jackdaws Castle. That figure was subsequently reduced to £40,000 when the owners of Viking Flagship, the dual Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, and a small number of other horses said they did not wish to be covered by the agreement.

Nonetheless, an option to renew the sponsorship for a

further year was taken up last October but Davies has paid only half the £40,000 owing — because, he claims, the number of horses not covered by the sponsorship.

Colin Smith, of Ford Farm Racing, the partnership which owns Jackdaws Castle, has had several conversations with Davies but has now

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Donjivan Collonges (130 Worcester)

Tim Forster invariably strikes form in November and he tends to a strong team to Worcester. Now makes more appeal than Donjivan Collonges, a progressive chaser who won first time out last season.

NB: Bold Statement, (20 Worcester)

accepted the non-payment as repudiation of the contract with Faucts and informed the British Horseracing Board (BHB) that the sponsorship has been terminated. He is now seeking a new sponsor for the Cotswolds yard.

The dispute is something of an embarrassment for Davies

as he is a council member of the Horse Racing Sponsors' Association and has played a leading role as a member of the Racehorse Owners' Association, selling the collective sponsorship rights of some owners.

Davies, whose company also sponsors several races, said yesterday: "I was hoping this could be resolved without this nonsense. We were, and still are, hopeful that it can be resolved. It is a strange scenario when someone has put £60,000 into a yard for sponsorship, protecting the interests of the VAT concession for 70-plus owners, that they are treated so badly."

He stressed that the dispute did not involve Nicholson. He said: "I hope my relationship with him will remain as it always has been — amicable." Davies intimated. Turning Trix and Brambleyhill Duke, his pair of horses at Jackdaws Castle, would remain in training with Nicholson.

Nicholson intends to run Deson D'Estrival and Poters Bay in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday, with Adrian Maguire expected to ride the latter.

and is likely to return to the Berkshire course at the end of this month for the Gerry Foden Hurdle. All being well, the 1995 Ebor winner will then go for the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton.

The only semblance of a mistake came at the third last, where the first hurdler to run in Khaled Abdulla's silks clipped the top of the obstacle. However, he possessed too much finishing speed for his three rivals and won by six lengths.

"So far, it has gone according to plan and we are pressing the right buttons. He's a smashing horse to train and loves decent ground," Nicholson said. Although Sammartino is 16-1 for the Champion Hurdle, the trainer is not committing himself. "We can always go up in trip. He has won at two miles five round Liverpool, but at the moment the plan is to stick to two miles."

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FOOTBALL

Ferdinand puts growing pains into perspective

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HE IS such a glorious prospect, such a vision of elegance as he glides out of the West Ham United defence, hinting at the kind of class in the sweeper role that Glenn Hoddle so desperately desires, that everyone is praying this particular teenager stays on the straight and narrow. So far, the omens have not been good, but no one who loves English football wants to blame it on Rio.

For one so precocious and self-assured on the pitch, so adept at seeing trouble coming and sidestepping it adroitly, Rio Ferdinand has been surprisingly clumsy in getting out of the way when it approaches off the field. There was a dreadful poignancy about his naivety in being arrested for drink-driving after consuming a few bottles of Hooch. His seduction by alcoholic lemonade seemed like a symbol of a young footballer struggling to cope with the pace of growing up.

He lost his driving licence and his place in the full England squad to face Moldova last September — his first senior call-up — because of that incident. A month later, he was brought back into the fold to play in the crucial

Under-21 match against Italy in Rio, but, after distinguishing himself on the pitch, he was disciplined for what was apparently an insignificant part in some high jinks that occurred later that night.

Once more, there were worried murmurings about whether all the success, the praise that was being heaped upon him, was going to his head. A case of much too

much, much too young, perhaps, although those that knew him said that he was a sensible boy. Yesterday, as he prepared to make his England debut on Saturday against Cameroon, the first of what many predict will be a host of caps for Ferdinand, 19 last week, discussed his penitence.

His words match his footballing deeds. He is an impressive young man, articulate and apparently possessed of a keen sense of perspective. When some sought to draw comparisons between his troubles and those that had afflicted Tony Adams, he pointed out that a few bottles of Hooch hardly made him a full-blown alcoholic. When others drew comparisons between him and Bobby Moore, he demurred.

It is flattering to hear those kind of things said about you," Ferdinand said. "I have read in the papers about how I am the sweeper England needs, but I do not take it all in. If you dwell on things like that, it can lead to your downfall. So I read the papers and then I just chuck them on the back seat."

"If people want to say I am the next Sammer [the Germany sweeper] and that I will do this and that for my country, then that is fine, but I just want to concentrate on fulfilling my potential. I am working on every part of my game because I want to play for England at the very highest level."

He talked later, with particular feeling, of 12 games that he spent on loan to Bournemouth last season, where he washed his own kit and spent lonely nights in his hotel room. When he got back to Upton Park, he had learned to appreciate his good fortune.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "The problems that I had were all about maturity. I am just a young lad. I have just come into the game and I know I have got to mature quickly. You learn from your mistakes and hopefully there will not be any more of them. I do not see that there will be any more problems down the line or in the future."

"You cannot put me in the same thing as an alcoholic because I am not that kind of person and sometimes it bugs me the way people talk about it. I do not want to be reminded of it because it is a dirty stain on my career, but, hopefully, from now on I can let my football do the talking."

Crystal Palace hope to complete the £1.75 million transfer of striker Michele Padovano from Juventus today, a move not without controversy. The 31-year-old forward and his representative could be reported to Fifa by Middlesbrough, who had also agreed a deal but pulled out when the agent allegedly demanded a payment of around £125,000. A spokesman said: "Middlesbrough were asked to pay a fee to the agent. We are angry and can see no reason why it should be paid. Fifa regulations specifically preclude it."

Francis rules out Loftus Road return

MANY Queens Park Rangers supporters will hope Gerry Francis was protesting too much when he angrily and unequivocally distanced himself from return to Loftus Road yesterday (Matt Dickson writes).

The Tottenham Hotspur manager remains popular and still has close ties at the club he served well as a player and coach. However, the dismissal of Stewart Houston by QPR at a time when he is considering whether to remain at White Hart Lane is nothing more than coincidence, according to Francis. "The association with Queens Park Rangers is complete rubbish," he said. "My only thoughts at this moment are for Tottenham Hotspur. It is a total fabrication."

Chris Wright, owner of QPR, was equally quick to try to end the speculation when he claimed that "things are never the same second time

Strang agrees move to Trent Bridge

BY RICHARD HOBSON

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE have confirmed that Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg-spinner, is to be their overseas player next season after failing to tempt Shane Warne to Trent Bridge. Strang agreed a two-year contract after meeting club officials, but will miss the start of the 1998 season because of the World Cup.

Last season he took 61 championship wickets and scored 588 runs for Kent, helping them to finish runners-up in three competitions. Although Kent opted to resign Carl Hooper for 1998, Strang said that he was keen to remain in county cricket.

Alan Ormrod, the Nottinghamshire team manager, said: "It is a vital to have the matter of the overseas player resolved early. He should be a

tremendous asset." Ormrod is also confident that Jason Gallian, the former England opening batsman who is leaving Lancashire, will agree to join Nottinghamshire next week.

Surrey have held further talks with Chris Lewis in an attempt to keep the former England all-rounder at the Oval. Lewis has so far declined to sign a new contract with Surrey and is considering a return to Leicestershire.

Vic Dodds, the Surrey cricket committee chairman, said: "He is adamant he wants to captain a side but that is impossible here because we have Adam Hollioake." Leicestershire are prepared to make Lewis vice-captain in readiness to succeed James Whitaker.

Adrian Pierson, of Leicestershire, was also moved to List Two but Alex Morris, of Yorkshire, had his List One status upheld.



Burridge offers a few words of wisdom to two of his Blyth Spartans' players during a training session yesterday

Blyth spirit brings Burridge reminder of former glories

Alan Lee finds a familiar figure relishing a day trip to Blackpool

A n FA Cup run by the non-leaguers of Blyth Spartans is one of the enduring institutions of football. So, too, is the goalkeeping career of that singular wandering minstrel, John Burridge. On Saturday, perhaps for the last time, the two come as a beguiling package.

For the 23rd time since the Second World War, Blyth have battled through the qualifying stages into the first round proper. Their reward could hardly be more appropriate, for they visit Blackpool, where Burridge made his home and his reputation almost 30 years ago. Now, three weeks short of his 46th birthday, he has delayed his retirement in order to meet this date with destiny.

These days, Blyth play in the Unibond League, at present ineffectually. They languish near the foot of the table and attract an average gate of fewer than 600. Yet their Croft Park ground, hemmed in by the terraced houses of this former mining and shipbuilding town, still reverberates with the club's colourful history, a fact recognised yesterday by a royal visit.

Prince Andrew put the Spartans on his itinerary during his north-eastern stop-off from the farewell tour of

the Royal Yacht Britannia. The visit gave Mike Mitchell, local industrialist and progressive chairman, the chance to demonstrate his vision of the club as an obscure addition to a CV that already included spells with Workington, Blackpool, Ashton Villa, Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Shifield United, Newcastle United, Hibernian and Manchester City — and became player-manager a year ago.

"It is good at it," he said. "Very good. Our poor position this year is partly my fault, but I've changed the system and we're on the up. But the time comes when you cannot play and manage. Nobody can, the job's too big, and I would have stood down from the team before now but for this Cup draw."

It is easy to see why Mitchell and Burridge get along. Neither is cowed by improbabilities. Twenty years ago, Mitchell, then a Newcastle United fan, was in a crowd of 42,000 at St James' Park when Blyth contested a fifth-round replay against Wrexham, the summit of one of the most stirring of all Cup runs. He has felt drawn to

Spartans ever since, but joined the board only 18 months ago. Burridge arrived at about the same time — an obscure addition to a CV that already included spells with Workington, Blackpool, Ashton Villa, Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Shifield United, Newcastle United, Hibernian and Manchester City — and became player-manager a year ago.

"It was Bob Stokoe who took me there. He put me straight in the first team, captained by Jimmy Ardfield, and then he put me right when I went off the rails for a few months. Drinking, women, fast cars, they were all involved. One night, I looked at myself in a night-time mirror and came to my senses. For the rest of my professional career, 28 seasons, I didn't touch a drink."

Burridge, whose wife is from Blackpool, does not permit the chairman of this journey to deflect his conviction. "It will be a wonderful day for me, with all my family there and so many memories — but I believe we will get something out of the game, too." Maybe a replay next to the North Sea at Blyth, with its scrubby terraces, its low-slung floodlights and its newly-unveiled royal plaque.

McGrath and Warne wreck New Zealand

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN MCGRATH and Shane Warne destroyed the New Zealand second innings yesterday to secure a 186-run victory for Australia on the final day of the first Test in Brisbane. Set to score 319 runs for victory on a worn pitch, New Zealand were dismissed for 132 off 62 overs to put Australia one-up in the best-of-three series.

McGrath took four wickets for four runs in one 22-ball spell just before lunch to set up the victory and finished with five for 32, despite being restricted by a groin strain that makes him doubtful for the second Test. It was McGrath's ninth five-wicket haul in Tests, and he had match figures of 7-128 to take his career Test wicket tally to 162.

Injuries force Hoddle's hand

BY OLIVER HOLT

ALMOST as if the fates had given, Glenn Hoddle one chance, and one chance only, to prepare for an England match with a full complement of players, they abandoned the clean bill of health that they gave him for the showdown with Italy last month and presented him with a slew of problems in advance of the international on Saturday against Cameroon at Wembley.

By far the most serious of these was the news that Tony Adams, part of the spine of the team to which Hoddle often refers, saw a specialist yesterday about a recurrence of an ankle injury and will require an operation that will keep him on the sidelines for a minimum period of six weeks.

Added to the fact that Teddy Sheringham will return to Old Trafford for treatment on his damaged knee today and that there are also concerns about a heavy cold afflicting Paul Scholes and niggling injuries picked up by Gary Neville and Andy Cole, Hoddle may be forced to indulge in the kind of experimentation that he had hoped to avoid.

Adams's misfortune could prove to be Rio Ferdinand's opportunity. Even before the news of the injury to the Arsenal captain was announced, the West Ham United sweeper seemed set to figure in Hoddle's plans, but he now has a heightened chance of winning his first cap by playing from the start, even though the England coach insisted yesterday that it was too late to consider the introduction of the sweeper system for the World Cup finals next year.

Hoddle, though, did not rule out playing Ferdinand as one of a back three or four and he took as his theme the idea that he will go to France without a best 11 in his mind, but rather with a series of options that he could employ in different circumstances.

"If you go with a best 11 and two of them get injured or suspended, then you feel in a negative mood," Hoddle said, "and I do not want to transmit that feeling to the players. I have got more than 22 quality players in this country, anyway. They know it is going to be a hell of a scramble for places and you will have to break a few hearts."

Ray Houghton, the experienced Reading midfield player, missed the Ireland training session in Dublin yesterday as the team began its preparations for the second leg of the World Cup play-off against Belgium in Brussels on Saturday. Houghton, 35, has a heel injury.

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France vs Scotland

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